

PLO defers U.N. vote

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Monday it was not pressing for a vote later in the day on a resolution to upgrade its U.N. status. The United States has threatened to withhold its U.N. seat if the General Assembly elects the PLO as an observer organisation. "We are not pushing for a vote this afternoon," Yehdi Terzi, the PLO's U.N. observer, told reporters. He said the resolution was not being withdrawn, but he could not say how long the deferment would extend. "The draft that is before the General Assembly which is sponsored by the Arab states — and many others — is not asking for a vote. We will not ask for an immediate vote for a vote," Terzi said. "The voting will take place in due time, but not today." Asked if the postponement was at least for the duration of the current assembly session, which adjourns later this month, he repeated: "I said not today." He was also unable to say when a vote might come because "we are not dealing alone in this world. There are other factors which we have to take into consideration. After considering all the other factors, it was decided not to push for a vote today." He declined to specify these factors.

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Pact denounces Czech invasion

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union joined other members of the Warsaw Pact Monday in denouncing the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia, East European sources said. It was the first time Moscow had formally changed its attitude to the crushing of the "Prague spring" reforms, regarded as similar to Krenin chief Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika programme to transform Soviet society. The sources said the denunciation was included in a short declaration issued at the end of a meeting in Moscow of Warsaw Pact leaders at which Gorbachev briefed his allies on his talks off Malta with U.S. President George Bush at the weekend (See story below). "The declaration condemned the invasion and interference," one source told Reuters. "It was signed by all participants." The Soviet Union was the last member of the alliance to denounce the invasion. Poland and Hungary criticised the action after the introduction there of multi-party systems this year. Other member countries followed suit in the last few weeks of turmoil in Eastern Europe. Russians had denounced the invasion from the outset and refused to take part in it.

King pays tribute to Sharif Zeid, issues policy guidelines to premier-designate Badran to form new government

By Jordan Times Staff Writers

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and designated Mudar Badran to form the next government.

Informed sources said Badran was holding consultations with "a number of personalities who could be included in the Cabinet" and was expected to announce his government Tuesday.

In a letter of designation to Badran, a former prime minister who served two terms, the King called for enhancement of the democratic process in the country as witnessed in the Nov. 8 general elections and for "strengthened stability and responsible dialogue to the service of national interests."

He paid tribute to Badran's "loyalty, integrity, dedication to national service, wide experience in diplomacy and interaction with public affairs."

The King directed Badran to:

tion with other countries and governments as well as international organisations towards further boosting relations and in commitment to the principles and objectives of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and harmony with the country's national interests.

— To honour Jordan's existing agreements with other countries and revising such accords to promote cooperation.

Arab affairs

— To remain committed to the Charter of the Arab League and resolutions of Arab summits, particularly in the area of supporting the Palestinian people and cause.

— To consider the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) as a "great hope on which Jordan pins its future."

"Therefore, total commitment must be made to ACC agreements, which aim to bring about total integration and unity," the King's directive said.

— To pursue all support for the Palestinian uprising and provide assistance to the families of Palestinian martyrs in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Orga-

nisation (PLO) in extending help to the Palestinians through the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee.

— To offer facilities for the Palestinians in a manner that would enhance their steadfastness in cooperation with the PLO in light of Jordan's clear policy based on supporting the Palestinians in exercising their legitimate rights and establishing their own independent state on Palestinian soil.

— To maintain continued support and assistance for efforts to safeguard Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem and the Shari'a court and its affiliates.

National issues

— To extend all care and support for the Armed Forces to enable it to perform its duty to ensure national security and stability, which are the pillars of progress and development.

— To ensure that the course of democracy is not limited to Parliament and enhance its concept, providing protection and responsible freedom within the framework of the law.

"Public freedoms should be considered as the basis of human rights," the King said. "Democracy means respect and prevalence of the law, which considers all citizens equal regardless of their sex, origin, belief, faith or race. They are equally re-

sponsible before the law and the government must provide them with care and should respect this principle enshrined in the constitution and which serves as the proper means to safeguard the society's fabric and can remove all sensitivities and deepen the citizens' loyalty towards their country and the (Arab) Nation."

"The government should therefore encourage creative work and offer equal opportunities and public freedom guaranteed by the constitution," the King said.

"Respect for others' views is a main principle of democracy and it means respect for the principle of tolerance as called for by Islam and applied in the Jordanian society. The government should allow and protect tolerance within the law and safeguard national unity."

"The resumption of Parliamentary democracy opens the way for participation in the affairs of the country, controlling the actions of the government and cooperating with the Cabinet in a constructive framework and true sense of national responsibility, which can, by no means, obstruct or harm public interests but in a way help the country adapt to the reform programme and follow up the march towards continued development and progress."

— To follow up the implementation of measures designed to deal with the problem of unemployment and pockets of poverty in the country through short, medium and comprehensive plans that create jobs in various regions. The government should maintain educational and vocational training programmes and provide the necessary funding for small-size projects to achieve this end.

— To bring about balance among the various regions to ensure social justice.

— To expand family planning programmes, support mother and child care centres and help the handicapped.

— To provide all forms of services to all parts of the Kingdom.

— To give proper attention to the ongoing educational process in the Kingdom, with special focus on training programmes for teachers and education on means to safeguarding the environment.

— To develop cultural and youth activities and offer incentives to creative work.

— To reexamine the Press and Publication Law in the course of endeavours to promote national education and culture.

— To give due attention to scientific research.

— To build on the success of the previous government in addressing the country's external debt situation and pursue economic reform policies to revitalise the economy. This should be done through:

1. Steering the economic policy towards speeding up economic growth rates and increasing the investment and production levels.

2. Dealing with imbalances in the national economy resulting from the scarcity of resources and developing the country's mineral, tourism and agricultural resources as best as possible.

3. Intensifying contacts with other countries with a view to increasing Jordan's exports.

4. Stimulating the role of the private sector by introducing the necessary regulations and laws.

5. Speeding up work on a law to combat economic crimes.

6. Supporting small and medium-size projects and increased exploitation of minerals.

7. Pursuing the implementation of the economic reform programme so as to restore economic and social balance to enable the country to control and reduce the financial deficit.

8. Continuing to build the country's reserves of foreign exchange to enhance the Kingdom's balance-of-payments status and stabilise the dinar.

9. Adopting a proper strategy to deal with external debt by providing controls on investments, which should be channelled towards development projects.

Concluding his message, the King said that "by the will of God and the cooperation of the people, the country will definitely overcome all hurdles as it did in the past and confront future challenges with self-confidence" and wished Badran and his government success in their mission.

Tribute to Sharif Zeid

In a letter accepting Sharif Zeid's resignation, the King paid tribute to the outgoing premier and voiced deep appreciation for his dedication and hard work.

"You shouldered a great responsibility in coping with matters related to the economic reform programme and in paving the way for a general election that was conducted in a very fair and free manner," the King said.

"You and your colleagues proved to be of high skill and efficiency in handling these issues and helped reflect a very positive and bright image of Jordan while helping safeguard the country's interests," he said.

In his letter of resignation, Sharif Zeid outlined the efforts his government had to exert in the past few

months under royal guidance and referred in particular to the various economic and financial measures that had to be taken in the course of implementing the economic reform programme.

He also referred to ongoing programmes for upgrading public administration and boosting the Armed Forces.

The King met with Sharif Zeid at the Royal Court and praised his endeavours and achievements in the last few months. "You placed the interest of the people above everything and achieve success, and this is a source for optimism and confidence for the country in the next phase," the King said.

The King asked the outgoing government to remain in a caretaker capacity until a new Cabinet is formed and assumed office.

Consultations under way

In the meantime, sources said intense consultations were under way between Badran and some of the potential candidates for his Cabinet. According to what was described as a "tentative, revised" list available from sources to the Jordan Times, the following were considered:

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PLO firm on talks proposal

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has conveyed to Washington a conditional acceptance of Secretary of State James Baker's Middle East peace ideas, insisting on a role in a proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and an open agenda for the talks, an official document said Monday.

It was the PLO's "final stance" towards the proposals Baker presented two months ago in support of an Egyptian call for direct Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo, a senior official said.

"We've conveyed our final stance and we hope to receive positive replies," said Salah Khalaf, an aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"Our response stresses that the PLO is the basis for any peace initiative, dialogue or negotiations," he told the AP in a long-distance telephone interview from Tunis.

He said Hakan Balawi, the PLO's representative in Tunis, handed the document Friday to U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau, the only U.S. diplomat authorised to deal with the PLO.

Khalaf said a copy also was conveyed to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

It was the third meeting between Balawi and Pelletreau over the plan in one week, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported from Tunis.

In Cairo, a government source, insisting on anonymity, confirmed that the foreign ministry had received the document. He said that an Egyptian response to Baker's plan, containing the PLO's position, was conveyed to Washington Sunday.

An Arabic text of document was made available to the AP by the PLO's Information Department in Tunis.

It said: "The PLO leadership hereby states that it will be willing to deal with the plan presented on Oct. 6, 1989, by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker only on the basis of the resolutions of the Central Council regarding the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue."

It reiterated the four reservations set by the council which met in Baghdad, Iraq, in October:

— That the dialogue be held between a PLO delegation, representing Palestinians inside and outside the Israeli-occupied territories, and an Israeli government delegation;

— That the agenda of the dialogue be open, with no preconditions attached, so that each side can raise any issue relevant to the problem, including elections in the occupied territories, and the Egyptian proposals.

— That the dialogue be held under the auspices of the United

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Arab panel assails Aoun's defiance, but urges restraint

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Fears of attack receded in Lebanon's Christian enclave Monday, and business resumed after a week of panic.

Thousands of Syrian and Lebanese soldiers still ringed the enclave, poised for an assault to drive General Michel Aoun from the presidential palace, while international moves continued to defuse the crisis.

"Both sides have gone off the boil," a diplomat said. "Both will grow weaker as long as this deadlock grinds on but the possibility of a confrontation cannot be dismissed."

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, an Arab League committee on Lebanon accused Aoun of blocking a settlement of the 14-year-old Lebanese civil war, but urged the warring sides to avoid a new military confrontation.

The appeal was made at the end of a two-day meeting in the

Saudi Arabian capital that grouped Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and his Moroccan and Algerian counterparts, Abdul Latif Al Filali and Ahmad Ghazali.

Aoun has rejected a peace plan mediated by the committee and approved by the Lebanese parliament at a special session in the Saudi resort town of Taif in October.

He also has opposed the election of President Elias Hrawi and the formation of a national reconciliation government to oversee implementation of the accord.

Aoun, who commands 20,000 troops, remains entrenched at the presidential palace in Beirut's suburb of Baabda, insisting he is the only legitimate authority in Lebanon.

Security sources estimate Syria has increased the number of its troops in Lebanon by at least 50 per cent — to about 45,000 —

since the election of Hrawi as president 10 days ago.

Hrawi was threatened to use force to topple Aoun, who controls Christian east Beirut and the rest of the enclave. The Syrian-backed Christian Maronite said Friday he had delayed an attack to allow time for foreign mediation.

Businesses reopened in the enclave Monday after a six-day strike in protest against Hrawi's threat to use force.

Schools and colleges stayed closed. Hundreds of students were taken by bus to the palace to reinforce a human shield of Aoun's supporters who have camped there since last Tuesday.

Cabinet sources said Hrawi sent envoys in the past two days to Edward Djerejian, the U.S. ambassador to Damascus. They said Djerejian had asked for Washington to be given a few days to try to persuade Aoun to submit to Hrawi's authority.

Beirut's Voice of Lebanon radio said Christian leader George Saadeh arrived in Riyadh Monday and was meeting the Arab committee and Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.

French Prime Minister Michel Rocard Sunday denounced opposition deputies who flew to Beirut to express support for Aoun, saying they had compromised France's traditional neutrality.

"For the first time French members of parliament have gone to Lebanon and have met with only community. The government and legislative authorities in France had never gone to express their support for just one of the communities," Rocard said in a television interview.

"They did this without the approval of the French government and they do not have a mandate, let that be quite clear," he added.

Bush, Gorbachev want to convene 23-nation summit

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev want to hold a summit of 23 nations from East and West if agreement can be reached on a conventional arms treaty, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said Monday.

Van den Broek said Bush told North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leaders meeting in Brussels that he and Gorbachev agreed during their weekend Malta summit "to propose to their allies... a meeting of government leaders at the signing of an agreement on conventional disarmament."

The 16 NATO and seven Warsaw Pact nations are now negotiating cuts in conventional forces in Europe. Bush said he hoped an accord on the non-nuclear forces could be reached around the middle of next year, Van den Broek told reporters.

"The importance of this (the 23-nation summit) is that it indicates both (Bush and Gorbachev) want to make an effort to reach such an agreement next year," Van den Broek said. "In that context, the term mid-1990 was mentioned. Without a doubt, that should be regarded as positive."

The conventional arms negotiations are being held in Vienna, Austria. Bush and Gorbachev both said at the end of their summit they hoped to be able to sign a conventional arms treaty

next year.

They also expressed hope that a separate treaty to cut stockpiles of long-range nuclear arms might also be ready for signing sometime next year.

Bush briefed allied leaders on his weekend summit talks with Gorbachev and assured them the U.S. commitment to the NATO alliance is unwavering despite dramatic changes in East-West relations, sources said.

In Moscow, Gorbachev held a similar session with leaders of a radically altered Warsaw Pact. Five of the seven members of the Soviet-led military alliance have undergone some change in their

(Continued on page 2)

Czechs press protests

PRAGUE (R) — More than 250,000 pro-democracy demonstrators thronged Prague's Wenceslas Square Monday in an angry protest against Communist domination of Czechoslovakia's new government.

The jostling crowd bayed for the resignation of Communist hardliners as leaders of the Civic Forum opposition movement accused Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec of cheating their expectations of a power-sharing cabinet.

A workers' spokesman, Igor Pleskot, said workers should be prepared for a general strike next Monday unless Adamec took experts supported by Civic Forum into the government by the end of the week.

"We want honourable, expert and undiscredited men," Civic Forum's Jiri Cerny told the demonstrators.

Adamec Sunday appointed non-Communist ministers for the first time since the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia to suppress the "Prague spring" reforms.

But the inclusion of 16 Communists in the 21-member team only deepened the political crisis which began on Nov. 17.

The protest Monday was the first on the streets for a week but the mood of the demonstrators was visibly angrier.

Western diplomats said the huge turn-out was proof that the opposition movement had lost none of its momentum.

Philippine troops, rebels locked in battle for Makati

MANILA (Agencies) — Rebel soldiers in hotels and high-rise buildings fired on government troops in the Makati financial district Monday, trapping hundreds of people in homes and hotel rooms.

Two bombs exploded in the city, injuring two people. It was unclear if they were related to the coup attempt, which began Friday and has killed at least 70 people, including three Monday.

Mutineers still held a regional air base, and domestic air service was indefinitely postponed at Manila's reopened international airport. Schools were closed, but

government employees were ordered to return to work except in Makati, a fashionable suburb of Manila.

Officials reported shortages of food and fuel from interruptions caused by the four-day-old mutiny. More than 10,000 people fled their homes to escape the fighting and were housed in schools, churches and other refuge centres.

Also Monday, military officials said guards arrested an army sergeant who tried to bomb a news conference being held by Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos and Armed Forces chief Renato

de Villa.

Hundreds of foreigners were pinned down in homes and hotels in the Makati district, where forces loyal to President Corazon Aquino contained the mutineers to 22 buildings (See page 6).

Ramos once again asserted that government forces had crushed the sixth attempt to topple President Corazon Aquino since she took power in 1986. He said Makati would be cleared of rebels soon.

Military spokesman Oscar

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Palestinian killed, another hangs himself in prison cell

AP — A masked Palestinian protester in Nabulus points his machete at a photo of a Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his slain deputy Khalil Wazir.

Occupied Jerusalem (Agencies) — A Palestinian died of Israeli army gunfire Monday and an Arab prisoner in the Gaza Strip, accused of trying to run down soldiers at an army checkpoint in October, hanged himself in his cell.

Hussan Abu Zanat, 17, of Nabulus in the West Bank, died of a head wound sustained Nov. 25, a hospital official said.

The Palestinians of the occupied territories staged a general strike to protest against the army's killing of four members of the "Black Panther" squad.

However, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin contended that the Palestinian uprising was losing international support and mobilising ever fewer Arab protesters.

"I believe that, when we reach the end of the first two years, the Palestinians have lost no the international scene," Rabin told Reuters in an interview marking this week's second anniversary of the revolt in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The bulk of Palestinians, for almost a year, have not responded to any call for demonstrations, violent or non-violent. All calls for civil disobedience have not really been responded (to) whatsoever."

Rabin said that, by preventing local Arabs from taking up Israel's offer of elections, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was playing into the hands of Muslim fundamentalists, who were gaining strength.

He also said that if Palestinian activists replaced their stones with firearms "that would be the end of the intifada."

Rabin said Israel had had a comprehensive response to the uprising since May when it proposed holding elections to choose Palestinians to negotiate on their future.

Like other Israeli leaders, he expressed an interest in the PLO's response to U.S. proposals for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo, saying that only Egypt's reply counted.

Israeli officials said Egypt had sent its answer to the United States but they did not know its content.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly was due here late Monday to brief Israel on the outcome of the Malta superpower summit and on the latest American Middle East peace efforts.

Rabin said world attention had shifted from the uprising to what he called the collapse of the Soviet empire and superpower relations.

"The imagination is entirely in a different direction from the stone-throwing of the Palestinians," he said.

Rabin said the intifada reached its peak of success in November and December 1988, when the U.N. General Assembly moved from New York to Geneva to hear PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"Everybody was excited about the PLO — look where they are today," he said.

Masa'adeh returns from Cairo meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'adeh returned to Amman Monday following his participation in the Arab Ministers of Interior Council meeting in Cairo at the head of the Jordanian delegation.

The meeting which ended Sunday evening, endorsed a plan to provide support for the Palestinian people's uprising and approved a report on the implementation of an Arab Centre for Security Studies.

The council meeting also endorsed plans and programmes for the Arab police chiefs and studied a pan-Arab strategy for combating drug trafficking.

The Amman-based office for combating narcotics was represented at the meeting in Cairo by its director Brigadier Hashem Al Qaisi.

Before leaving Cairo, Masa'adeh called for a pan-Arab security strategy which, he said, can provide greater measure of security for Arab countries and Arab citizens.

In an interview with the Cairo newspaper Mayo, the minister noted that immense charges have occurred in the Arab World presenting a real challenge for the Arab countries security services.

Jordanian nominated for Canadian award

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Culture has nominated Youssef Khasbo for the Glenn Gould International Award for 1990 for his immense contributions to music on the Arab and international levels. Khasbo, a Jordanian, has been nominated for the award which is offered by the Canadian Council for Arts in Toronto for his specialisations in classical music and his contributions for the establishment of numerous music conservatories in the Arab World, according to a statement by the ministry.

Khasbo is a well known Jordanian musician who composed the Jerusalem Symphony, a mixture between Arab and Western music. The Canadian award is granted once every three years.

Glenn Gould was a renowned Canadian pianist born in Toronto in 1932 and died in 1982.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CONGRATULATES THAILAND: His Majesty King Hussein sent a congratulatory cable Monday to Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej on his country's National Day. King Hussein wished the Thai king continued good health and happiness and the Thai people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

LAWZI RECEIVES SOVIET ENVOY: Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk called on Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and conveyed to him congratulations from the Supreme Soviet (the USSR parliament) on Lawzi's reappointment as speaker of the Upper House. The ambassador wished Lawzi continued success in his mission. (Petra)

LOWER HOUSE TO HOLD 3RD SESSION: The Lower House of Parliament will hold its third session on Wednesday at 10 a.m. During the session the House will elect the permanent committees of the Lower House. (Petra)

ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS: Jordan's Ambassador to Australia Saad Al Bataineh has presented his credentials in Canberra to Australian Prime Minister Bill Hayden. Bataineh conveyed to Hayden His Majesty King Hussein's greetings and wishes for Australia's further progress and development. (Petra)

ACC LAND TRANSPORT: Officials in charge of land transport in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries have discussed in Amman subjects related to transport and prepared a draft agreement to be submitted to the ACC ministerial meeting in Samarra. The meeting was held in implementation of a decision by ACC ministers of transport in Baghdad last month. (Petra)

SOCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL TALKS: Jordan will take part in the meetings of the Arab Social Affairs Ministers Council to start in Tunis Tuesday. The ministers will discuss in the three-day meetings ways of promoting joint Arab cooperation in the field of social development and issues related to Arab women and children. Jordan's delegation to the meetings will be headed by ambassador in Tunis Talal Sa'at Al Hassan. (Petra)

CONTEST: The Swissair contest ended Sunday at Safeway International and the winners, Hind Abdul Jalil and Tayyar Kamel, won a free round-trip ticket to Los Angeles on Swissair's newest route. (J.T.)

NRA seminar discusses uses of Tripoli stone

AMMAN (Petra) — The uses of "Tripoli stone" and powder which is found in abundance in Jordan was the theme of a one-day seminar organised Monday by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) in a bid to orient the public on the various types of minerals found in the Kingdom.

According to Mohammad Abu Ajamieh, acting NRA director general, the mineral is found in four large areas extending from Zarqa, north of Amman, to Shobak, in the southern regions of Jordan, and is used in industry on a large scale.

Abu Ajamieh, who opened the sessions said the Tripoli stone is a sedimentary mineral containing a great deal of silicon and can be used in Jordan or sold to foreign markets.

He said that the stone which can be crushed into powder is used for cleansing purposes, and is used in the manufacture of soap, insecticides and in the cosmetics industry.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

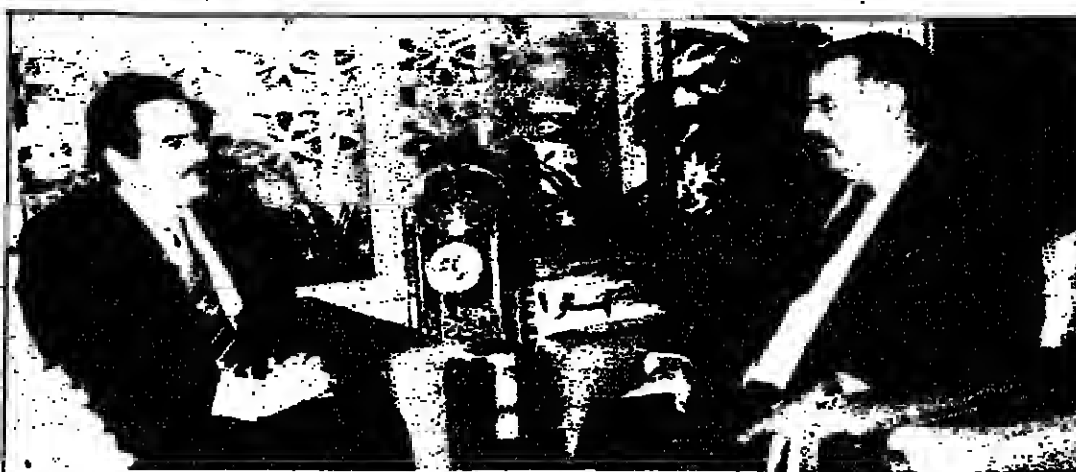
- * An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- * An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- * Book exhibition at the University of Yarmouk.
- * An art exhibition by Ghassan Al Hana, Abid Atwan and Abdullah Nawwadah at the Jordanian Plastic Artists Association, Shmeisani.
- * An art exhibition of water colours by Jordan artist Ahmad Ismail at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- * An exhibition organised by the Goethe Institute entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Shaker Murji at the British Council.
- * A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

PANEL DISCUSSION

- * A panel discussion by Rami Abu Ali Mahmoud Al Rimawi and Muhammad Al Zaker on "the cultural role of Arabs residing outside the occupied territories toward the intifada" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- * A lecture entitled "Qualifications of Gemstones: Examples from Jordan and the World" by Dr. Sobhi Nasir at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.



Arar receives Iraqi ambassador

Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saleh Arar Monday received in his office the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Ismail who congratulated him on being elected Lower House of Parliament speaker. The Iraqi ambassador submitted an invitation from the Speaker of the Iraqi Consultative Council Seadi Mahdi Saleh to Arar and members of the Parliamentary Committee of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in the Jordanian parliament to attend the first meeting of the committee due to convene in Baghdad on Jan. 14. Arar also received ACC Secretary General Hilal Nasser who congratulated him on being elected speaker of the parliament. In the meeting the two reviewed achievements attained by the ACC states. Arar also received congratulatory cables from parliament speakers of North Yemen, Egypt, South Korea and France. (Petra photo)

Environment ministers, experts begin regional talks in Amman Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministers in charge of environment and the ecology in the Arab World and specialists from various countries will converge on Amman Wednesday for a two-day meeting on the environment and development which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Several working papers dealing with environmental issues around the world in general and in the Arab countries in particular, as well as policies to be adopted to protect the environment in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) strategy, will be reviewed by the participants, according to an announcement here Monday.

The announcement said that two working papers, one dealing with economic and social development versus the environment, and another on the environment in general within the Arab World, will be scrutinized at the meeting which has been organized by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources in cooperation with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Swedish Stockholm-based Institute on the Environment.

Tawjihi students to take 1 exam as of 1993-1994 scholastic year

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new Ministry of Education plan for Tawjihi students to take only one examination session at school-year end, instead of the present two-examination system, will not be implemented until the 1993-1994 scholastic year, according to a Ministry of Education statement.

The statement issued by Minister of Education Adnan Badran last week, said Tawjihi students will follow the same system and take the two-year examination sessions and also study the present text books from now on until 1993.

Badran had said that students in the coming decade will be allowed to take the Tawjihi examination as they move on from the first to the second and third secondary classes; and that Tawjihi students will be taking one exam at the end of the scholastic year instead of two.

The ministry statement said present textbooks for all the school levels will remain valid until new textbooks have been prepared in accordance with a ministry plan which goes into effect in the 1990-1991 scholastic year.

Badran had said that new subjects will be introduced in the school curricula for the first time in Jordan as part of the plan which will cover various levels.

The minister said such subjects as law, politics, culture, civic education and economy will be given to school students at various levels.

The minister noted that the plan which also includes school buildings and other improvements to present educational facilities will altogether cost JD 250 million.

The minister noted that the plan was to be implemented in accordance with the 1987 national educational conference resolutions which provided for a set of modernisation programmes to overhaul the education system in Jordan.

The Ministry of Education's statement came only three weeks before the start of the first examination session for Tawjihi students.

The session which begins on Dec. 24 also marks the start of the mid-year or winter holiday for schools in Jordan, expected to last until Jan. 11, 1990.

The Tawjihi students will take another examination at the end of the scholastic year by June 1990, in accordance with the present system.

Seminar opens on demographic implications of Arab migration

Samra blames policies, government for migration

AMMAN (Petra) — A six-day seminar on demographic and socio-economic implications of the international migration in the Arab World opened at the University of Jordan Monday with the participation of nearly 70 specialists from Jordan and the Arab World.

University President Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra, who represented His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, addressed the opening session outlining the migration of teachers and students and the brain drain in general.

Samra referred to the government and their policies as the main cause behind the migration.

Dr. George Qassis, who represented the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) at the meeting, also dwelt in his address on the causes of migration, citing in particular migration of Arab people from North Africa to Europe and Arab countries to the oil rich Gulf states for work.

The migration of workers has had deep effects on social and economic life in the countries which import and export workers," Qassis said.

Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) representative Amin Faris presented an outline of the various topics to be discussed by the participants and said that more detailed discussions on migration will be taken up by an enlarged meeting which will be organised by the ALO in Cairo.

Jordan to observe U.N.-initiated International Volunteers Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will observe the International Volunteer Day Tuesday which is an annual event initiated by the United Nations in 1986.

The day reminds the public of the immense benefits of voluntary service conducted by Jordanian volunteers in all fields and at all levels, according to Youssef Abu Dayyeh, coordinator of the United Nations Volunteer Programme in Jordan.

Abu Dayyeh, speaking on the eve of the anniversary said that voluntary work in the Kingdom is not restricted to the Ministry of Social Development or the charitable societies, "but it is rather spread all over the country."

He said that a United Nations delegation visited Jordan last July and examined various volunteers projects being conducted in the Kingdom through a number of ministries and the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

He said that agreement was then reached to involve Jordanian volunteers in United Nations voluntary programmes to serve in agricultural, transport, educational, engineering, health, manpower development, social work and other fields around the world.

The Civil Service Commission which serves as a liaison between the volunteers and the United Nations programme has nominated 56 Jordanians to be involved in these U.N.-sponsored schemes, Abu Dayyeh said.

According to Dr. Abdullah Al Khathib, chairman of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Jordan, the Kingdom has 450 charitable or voluntary societies grouping 45,000 volunteers "who work relentlessly to serve their community."

On last year's anniversary ceremony was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to honour distinguished Jordanian volunteers.

In December last year, Prince Hassan announced the establishment of a specialised organisation to pursue and follow up efforts to extend support for victims of natural disasters in the Arab and Islamic World to serve on a voluntary basis.

5 Arab League states discuss education in occupied lands

TUNIS (Petra) — Education in the Israeli-held Arab territories is the theme of a five-day meeting at the Arab League Headquarters here which began Monday.

Delegates from Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine are taking part in the meeting which will discuss the impact of continued Israeli occupation of Arab land on Arab schools and universities and on the education of the Arab children in general.

The delegates will look into a plan that can be implemented in this respect and offer education to the Palestinian children free from Israeli influence, the officials said.

They said that such a plan could be implemented by beam-casting and other educational programmes to the Palestinian students.

Arab League officials said that the delegates will also focus attention on the adverse effects of Israeli-imposed curricula on Arab schools and ways through which the Arab League in general and countries directly involved in Palestinian refugees affairs in particular can provide help to the Palestinian students.

Mother Goose's golden Xmas — a present from the heart

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the Royal Theatre Company in aid of the Jordanian Save the Children Fund, is holding its Christmas play "Mother Goose's Golden Christmas."

The play, which is performed at the Royal Cultural Centre, is a combination of nursery rhyme characters fitted into one story. Characters include Little Bo-Peep (Lena Haddadin), Little Miss Muffet (Maggie Kahariti), and her spider (Jean-Philippe Amour), Little Tomy Tucker (Michelle Hashem), Little Jack Horner (Nick Bowley), and of course, Mother Goose (Jan Cross). The plot consists of the interaction of these characters through their various squabbles with each other. They are fed-up with being called "little", and so Mother Goose decides to create them a new adventure story rather than the nursery rhymes they are told daily. This is her Christmas present to them — a story from the heart.

Kay Mukhar is directing this play. It is her first attempt as she has only helped in the directing of previous productions by Vanessa Batrouni.

Now director and actress have switched roles; Batrouni is herself acting in the play as the aptly named "Fairy Lethargia". Unlike other fairies, this one is more concerned with her beauty sleep than with spells. She spends most of the story snoring away in the red wooden Christmas decoration box. Appearing in her crumpled up white dress, and her crown half drooping over one eye, she manages to drag herself into conjuring much needed spells.

The characters are faced with the problem of rescuing Gertie (Gaynor Peridakis), the goose that lays the golden eggs, for the wicked giant. The latter is created in absentia through what we hear being said of him, and his back stage voice.

Lyrics, music, and script are written by David Wood who also wrote "The Ginger Bread Man" which was performed by the same group last year.

There is a total of eleven actors and actresses some of whom also have triple roles. For instance, Amour plays the roles of the spider, giant's voice, and Santa Claus.

The stage, designed by Nawal Abdullah Kattan, is divided into two sections; the background in the introductory scene is a huge big book with Mother Goose written on it in green, and closed with a green ribbon. A Christmas tree is also to be found with its colourful decorations and twinkling multi-coloured lights.

Thus, a real atmosphere of festivity is achieved. As the action develops the book is unfolded giving way to a colourful rural scene. In it the giant's castle can be seen in the far distance, and a cow flying over a smiling moon.

The dual painting effort put in by artists Abdullah and Iqbal Shukri-Tannir has made the foreground look like an area in a forest. Bushes lie here and there with a large bright red mushroom with white poka-dots to one side.

The characters themselves come out of the story book dancing and singing to Eileen Bonneville's piano playing. They are in continuous motion among the two stage sections, and the audience.

Mother Goose, who is a teacher for the disabled in real life, fits into her part like a hand into a glove, so to speak. She is portrayed as a sympathetic grandmotherly character — warm, understanding, and loving. One could almost say that she is prim and proper without negative implications. This element serves as a humorous contrast to the later "Mother Goose in her undies" scene, for her clothes are stolen by the two evil wolves. They are basically the giant's servants who are ordered to bring back the escaped goose.

The higher badder wolf acted by Richard Hillebrand is domineering in character and takes every opportunity to be little the other nervous wolf. A modern touch is found here when the weak wolf is revealed to be a tranquilliser addict.

It seems that this wolf is finding it difficult to deal with life's pressures! One must add though that Ruby Baker has excelled in making this character as real as possible. The different positions required in portraying a cowardly, and nervous figure are mastered



Mother Goose and her team



Little Miss Muffet played by Maggie Kabariti (Photos by Osman Akuz)

well in the bent back, fluttering hands, and howling cries.

The play's duration is one hour and forty five minutes "so when I knew that we were going to do the play in the smaller studio theatre, I had to adapt the script so as to involve the child audience," says Mukhar.

Accordingly, there are written parts in the programmes distributed which direct the children in answering questions asked by the actors.

The cast is basically a mixture of students, teachers, and even principles. All have been acting in the different countries that they have come from.

Therefore, a lot of the faces will be new to the fans of the Royal Theatre Company.

Mukhar says: "The ups and downs that we had while practicing for this play were worth it when we see our dream and combined efforts realised. We have tried to create a bit of magic for everyone, adults included. The story offers one the chance to go back in time and remember one's childhood."

The play utilises all aspects in order to involve the audience to the fullest.

Shows run until Dec. 5, 1989, and tickets are available at the Royal Cultural Centre.

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The stage is set

WITH the replies of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament to the speech from the throne submitted Sunday, the stage is now set for turning a new page in Jordan's parliamentary life. To begin with a new cabinet is projected to be formed with former Prime Minister Mudar Badran as the new prime minister. Badran, a man of wide experiences and reputed to be very close to the pulse of his countrymen, both political and economic, can be projected to offer the kind of leadership that the new situation requires. His closeness to the people and awareness of their needs, aspirations and woes stems most of all from his populist character which shuns contact with one strata of Jordanians and not the other. Often characterised as having an iron fist policy against corruption and abuse of authority, he also has the reputation of being soft-hearted when it comes to the rights and grievances of the meek and those whose rights have been abused or violated. Rectification of errors in judgment and decisions can therefore be projected to be among his early priorities.

Still the new prime minister cannot be expected to address all the needs of the new era without the cooperation of the other branches of the government on the top of which is, of course, the Lower House of the Parliament. Having been directly elected by the people of Jordan in a free and democratic national elections, the members of the Lower House are the closest public officials to the political and economic tempo of their constituencies. The new prime minister can be expected therefore to draw heavily on their value judgments and views yet maintain his independence in making his own decisions as indeed the Constitution so stipulates.

The best thing that could occur to the country under the new circumstances is to have a positive working relation between the executive and legislative branches of government with the judiciary acting as the arbiter of differences of jurisdictional and competence issues. To begin with, this constructive relations will start when the new Parliament will, as anticipated, accord the new cabinet its vote of confidence. After all this is done and finished, the country can get back to business in order to begin the process of translating at least some of the popular views into actions. It is a safe bet that the new government, in all its new branches, will deal first with the policies that enjoy consensus among the people and then turn to issues on which there are genuine and responsible differences of opinions. Prime Minister Badran's closeness to the various currents in the country would make him an ideal person to deal with them most effectively.



Said Hadadin —
Sawt Al Shaab

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i and the other Arabic dailies on Monday tackled the replies to the King's speech from the throne by Upper and the Lower House of Parliament. Both replies, it said, proved that members of Parliament are united in their endeavours to serve their country and their King. The replies to the speech from the throne presented to the King an outline of the work which Parliament is bracing itself to carry out in the military, economic, cultural and social fields, and pointed out the immense challenges the country is now facing, the paper noted. It said that one can feel from the replies a dedication and devotion on the part of Parliament members to confront these challenges and this is a very satisfactory development which will please the Jordanian citizens. What is more important, the paper said, is the determination expressed by the Parliament members to work hand in hand with the executive authority in all matters and to achieve the aspired goals.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily refers Monday to a tendency on the part of the Eastern European countries to restore diplomatic relations with Israel, a development which does not forebode well for the Arabs. Mahmoud Al Rhamawi says in his column that restoration of relations between Tel Aviv and the Eastern Bloc would certainly encourage the Jewish state to harden its position and even escalate its repression against the Arab people of Palestine. The writer notes however that Moscow is taking another view despite the fact that it was the first to initiate the liberal movement in Eastern Europe. The writer notes with satisfaction Moscow's decision to link any restoration of relations with Tel Aviv to the latter's acceptance of the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland and a lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The writer urges the Arab countries to unite their position with regard to this move on the part of Eastern Europe and take proper action to prevent such development from happening.

Al Dustour daily commented Monday on the replies by the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament to the speech from the throne. The paper said that the replies showed, beyond doubt, that the Jordanian people, represented by their deputies in Parliament are united behind their King and behind the country's objectives which they will seek to achieve.

By the Associated Press

WORLD leaders in politics, science and the arts predict an acceleration of moves towards democracy in the 1990s, and growing concern about the environment. Here are some of their predictions. Unless otherwise indicated, their comments were made to the Associated Press.

Valery Giscard d'Estaing, French statesman and former president

"The Soviet Union's exit from Communism appears to be the most difficult process to manage in the next 10 years. No doubt it will involve periods of economic order and high inflation, and also political convulsions. As the states of Eastern Europe move rather quickly towards the European model, the Soviet Union will seek a separate way, whose definition it probably will not be able to find soon. This will lead it to remain in a state of uncertainty and strong internal tension."

Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Soviet President

"It's impossible to project the usual, traditional understanding of progress into the 21st century. On the agenda is working out some kind of rational needs of mankind, accounting for the resources of energy and raw materials, the demands of ecology and demographics and, of course, the necessity of liquidating the gap between the small group of developed countries and dozens of others, especially the Third World."

"The new civilisation, the formation of which has already begun, won't be a uniform monolith. On the contrary, its ability to live lies in a multi-variableness and multi-factiveness of the spiritual, national, social, political and cultural." (From a speech July 5 at the Sorbonne in Paris)

Lester R. Brown, President of the U.S.-based Worldwatch Institute

"The 90s promise to be the environmental decade, a time when environmental trends increasingly will shape economic trends. Rising world grain prices will likely be the first economic indicator to signal trouble in the relationship between ourselves, now numbering 5.2 billion, and the natural systems and resources on which we depend. As the decade unfolds, the degradation of

the planet will begin showing up at harvest time.

"Reversing the deterioration of the planet will require governments everywhere to redefine security, recognising that the principal threats to our future come less from military aggression and more environmental degradation. ... We either will reverse the degradation of the planet and move towards an environmentally sustainable economy or environmental degradation and economic decline will begin to feed on each other."

Bai Hua, leading Chinese poet and playwright

"Developments in the 1990s will be closer to the hopes of the common people. Changes in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and Asia all illustrate this point. Also people are becoming more and more concerned with man's living environment, not only in the relationship between people. I think there is hope."

Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Norwegian prime minister

"I hope that we will see an increased democratisation in Eastern Europe but also in other parts of the world and that human rights everywhere will be raised to a higher standard. People are more aware of the world economy and the world's ecology than was the case when we go back even one decade."

Margaret Thatcher, British prime minister

"Global environment — protecting the ozone layer, working towards combating the greenhouse effect — are problems we must tackle together. On the political front, while maintaining a strong NATO, we should continue to work for further nuclear disarmament. He must also continue to encourage the democratisation process in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, where we have seen such encouraging developments recently. The prospects for progress in South Africa are also very much at the front of our minds. Closer to home, we shall need to ensure that Britain and its European Community partners develop into a truly common market."

Haseo Mori, Japanese fashion designer

"The 1990s will be the era of

globalism. It will be anachronistic to wrap people with animal furs, for we'll be able to create or synthesise beautiful fur-like things to wrap us with. In the 1990s, the synthetic products may be superior. People will be looking to the 21st century and will seek a well-balanced life. We will think of our world not as different nationalities but as 'earth people.' Men, animals and plants all have to live in well balanced equilibrium." (From remarks to reporters)

Gareth Evans, Australian foreign minister

"The nineties will unquestionably belong to the Asia-Pacific region, which already has displaced the Atlantic as the centre of gravity of world production. This will happen even though Europe becomes a single market in 1992. As the trend toward 'globalism' continues there is likely to be a revival of multilateralism as a means of solving common problems such as chemical weapons, AIDS and environmental issues."

Giovanni Spadolini, Italian senate president and former Italian premier

"If East-West opposition is rapidly coming to its conclusion, on the international stage the North-South relationship constitutes without doubt the decisive challenge to build new balances under the sign of peace and civil coexistence. ... Over the great dramas of our time, we have to build a big arch of solidarity, overcoming every difference. Only in this way will it be possible to stand up successfully to the dangerous challenges coming from terrorism, fundamentalism and intolerances of all kinds."

Anibal Cavaco Silva, Portuguese prime minister

"We have seen an astonishing turnaround in Eastern Europe, with the retreat of Communism, the weakening of Socialism. The hidden voices of democracy, of the rights of man, of freedom of expression have emerged. I hope all these aspirations continue in this way into the last decade of the 20th century. I'd like to see a Europe from the Urals to the Atlantic with a model of society that we the Portuguese know as the most correct and just ... this is the great movement of the cen-

tury."

Julio M. Sanguinetti, Uruguayan president

"The next decade for our continent will unfold in terms of the following issues: the modernisation of the democratic state, economic reasonableness, the access by our societies to appropriate technology, Latin American integration, narcotics as a phenomenon of society's values and conflicts, the foreign debt, protectionism by industrialised countries. These issues constitute, in my judgment, the determining ingredients of the debates about democratic stability and peace, which are our permanent goals."

Boutros Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs

"The two-way (U.S.-Soviet) polarisation that marked the last four decades will disappear completely and will be replaced by multilateral polarisation. Unless South-South dialogue is deepened and unless the North revives dialogue with the South, the present East-West detente will be at the expense of the countries of the south."

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee

"We have to face some dangers. One of the dangers is doping but I think with the help of the governments and the international federations, we will win this fight. ... Commercialisation is very necessary but we have to avoid its controlling sports. ... Speaking about the situation in the Communist countries, I will say that the political changes in these countries are also helping sports relations. The Olympic games in Seoul were perhaps the best ever because there was a very good political ambience in the world."

J. Michael Bishop, U.S. cancer biologist and co-winner of the 1989 Nobel Prize in medicine

"The prospect that seems most important to me is the potential that our position as a pre-eminent nation in scientific research may be eroded. I attribute it to the decline in real funding for fundamental research. And to a decline in public education. ... I think our nation is in danger of not taking intellect seriously

enough, of not disciplining ourselves and not continuing on the creative course we're on."

"Not even the parents of affluent children take the education of their children as seriously as they should. They look to it as an avenue to material success; They do not look to it for enrichment of adult life."

"I'm concerned about the politics of greed. If you appeal to the material aspirations of people, you get elected. That's been honed to a fine skill. The public no longer cares about the creative side of life."

Desmond Tutu, South African Anglican archbishop

"We are discovering a fundamental law of our human existence — that we are made for interdependence with one another and with the rest of creation. Consequently there will be increasing revulsion with the arms race, with an increase in people's participation in the peace movement. The big powers will persuade their surrogates and clients to make peace in their respective areas."

"There will be an upsurge of concern for human rights and interest in participatory styles of governance. Perhaps we will realise that people count more than things and material possessions and we will all be involved in the green revolution and its concerns about ecology and pollution and the ozone layer. AIDS and poverty will draw us closer together."

Chatichai Choonhavan, prime minister of Thailand

"It is ... evident that nations throughout the world are now attaching more importance to achieving higher levels of economic well-being at home as the best guarantee of ... long-term national security. ... So, as we look ahead to the 1990s, I have no doubt that we will see a lessening of conflict and confrontation. It will be a time when nations will be seeking a more peaceful international climate in order to focus greater attention to the task of economic development."

Mahathir Mohammad, prime minister of Malaysia

"Development in relations between the superpowers promise, for the first time since the war, a broadbased and an unpre-

cedented agenda for political and economic cooperation. Less heartening is that we enter the next decade with the economic issues of the eighties unresolved. And, equally disheartening, apartheid is still with us." (From an address to the Commonwealth conference this month in Kuala Lumpur)

Ilya Prigogine, Belgian winner of the 1977 Nobel Prize in chemistry

"The science of the next century will see the emergence of a new relationship between human beings and nature. It will be a science of the incomplete, one that contains probabilistic aspects and does not try to fit all natural phenomena into scientific laws. Rather, it will deal with the duality of a science of laws and one of events." (Paraphrased in the Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun following a Yomiuri symposium)

Geoffrey Palmer, New Zealand prime minister

"There is a danger that rapid economic growth in some parts of the developing world could be mistakenly interpreted as the end of the problems of economic imbalance between developed and developing countries. In the 1990s, the international community must sustain its commitment to development assistance efforts for deprived countries and the poorest people within those countries. 'Sustainable development' — development of resources without degradation of the environment — will be the catchword of the next decade."

Naguib Mahfouz, Egyptian winner of the 1988 Nobel literature prize

"At present in the Third World, readership has diminished because people are preoccupied with their problems, their economic problems. Art and literature are not flourishing. But hopefully inflation will decrease, and at least a small hase of literature will be formed."

Bob Hope, American comedian

"I am happy that comedies with family themes are coming back. They are making nicer movies (less risqué) now back home and I am happy with this change. I think the audience is ready for it." (From an address in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia).

Six months after, Peking still has to rule by force

By Mark O'Neill
Reuters

PEKING — Six months after its troops crushed student-led protest with heavy loss of life, the Peking leadership must still rely on force to remain in power, unable to convince its people such violence was necessary.

Foreign analysts and some Chinese said opposition to the government was widespread, despite martial law in Peking, arrests and interrogations nationwide and daily propaganda against the protesters.

On the night of June 3, troops and tanks moved into central Peking, killing hundreds, perhaps thousands of people. The event, the highest use of the army against civilians in 40 years of Communism, continues to dominate the public mind.

"Why did they have to shoot?" said an old Peking woman, reflecting the views of many that they can express only in private. "If they had used batons and tear gas, people would have understood and would not feel the way they do."

The government has lied to us," said a medical worker. "It has not given the real death toll and expressed no regret for the thousands of ordinary people killed or injured."

The official line, repeated in a thousand speeches and newspaper articles, is that the protests developed into a rebellion aimed at overthrowing the Communist party and the Socialist system and had to be put down.

"In one way, the government was right," a Western diplomat said. "If it had given in to the student demands, that would have started reforms that would have changed the kind of Communist rule we have seen in the last 40 years."

"What the event also showed is that China is a pre-modern society. The constitution is not worth the paper it is written on. The key decisions were taken not by parliament, not by the cabinet or even the party politburo but a group of veteran leaders, some with no formal post," he said.

"The only way to explain what happened is that China is an empire, where all obey the orders

from number one," he said. The events of that night had had profound repercussions, both at home and abroad, and may be seen in future as a turning point in the nation's history.

Abroad, it led to a cut-off in new loans and political contacts from the Western world, reversing a 10-year trend in which China moved away from self-imposed isolation.

Domestically, it led to the downfall of party chief Zhao Ziyang, the freezing of many of his reform policies and a headline leftist ideology reminiscent of the cold war.

This has resulted in increasing isolation not only from the West but also from East Europe whose countries have since June been moving rapidly in the opposite direction.

A Chinese journalist said there would be no compromise with the West. "The outside world is mistaken if it thinks the leaders will back down out of expediency. It is a question of face and pride. If this isolation means slower development and falling living standards, then so be it. While the current leaders remain in power, they cannot back down," he said.

He said domestic difficulties would be blamed on the foreigners, as in the early 1960s when widespread famine was blamed on the overnight withdrawal of thousands of Soviet experts.

The leaders have good reason to be nervous about the economy. While a 14-month austerity programme has succeeded in dramatically slowing record inflation and excess growth, it has also led to factory shut-downs, rising unemployment and loan defaults.

With the slowdown in foreign loans, repayment of \$44 billion in foreign debts has suddenly become a major concern. Peking has said vital imports, such as steel and other raw materials, will have to be cut to service the debt.

Next year, Peking will also have to repay 30 domestic yuan (\$8.1 billion) in domestic debt to its citizens, and repayment will continue to soar after years of budget deficits.

For the ordinary citizen, this means less goods in the shops as more go for export.

Gandhi: victim of voters' hopes and his own isolation

By Earleen Fisher
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — Rajiv Gandhi's election debacle was triggered by his isolation from the people who five years ago overwhelmingly endorsed him as their leader.

But his downfall had another cause, one that he was powerless to fight: an impatient desire for change in a developing nation where voters think the fastest way to improve things is to throw out the old leader and usher in a new one.

The legacy of a powerful family brought Gandhi to the prime minister's office, but it wasn't enough to keep him there. He repeatedly invoked the achievements of his famous forebears — his grandfather, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, and his mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

But Rajiv Gandhi, the Western-educated airline pilot who was pushed into politics by his iron-willed mother, failed to preserve the initial wave of euphoria that propelled him into the prime minister's job after Mrs. Gandhi's assassination.

For only the second time in modern India's 42 years as a free nation, Gandhi and the Congress Party failed to win a majority of seats in parliament's policy-making lower house.

The Nov. 22-26 elections didn't give anyone a decisive mandate, but one thing was clear: the Congress Party was no longer the overwhelming choice of the people, even though it won 192 seats — more than any other single party.

A centrist coalition called the National Front was formed early this year at the instigation of one-time Gandhi ally Vishwanath Pratap Singh. It captured 144 seats in the new parliament.

Last week, Singh managed to galvanise other opposition parties, ranging from Communists in Hindu fundamentalists, into an unlikely but — for the moment, at least — effective alliance. Together, the coalition controls 263 of the 525 seats in parliament's Lok Sabha, or house of the people.

On Dec. 2, Singh was sworn in

as prime minister and given 30 days to prove his parliamentary majority in a vote of confidence.

Almost until the very end, the gap between the Congress Party and the people was so great that Gandhi and his closest aides were unable to grasp that they were losing the election campaign.

"They woke up very late. They didn't know that a campaign was going against them since 1987. They were hopelessly out of touch," said Vinod Dua, a political commentator who served as co-host of state-run television's around-the-clock election coverage and analysis.

"Even as I was on TV seeing the results, their spokesman were saying they were going to win," Dua said.

"If he can't stage a comeback within the next six months or the next year, he doesn't have the resilience to rough it out for the next five years."

Singh, who served as Gandhi's finance and defence minister before his tax raids and anti-corruption investigations struck too close to home in Congress Party ranks, resigned from the cabinet in the spring of 1987. A few months later, he was expelled from the Congress for "anti-party activities."

Gandhi, meanwhile, failed to recognise the mounting opposition. He remained confident that voters would never again trust opposition politicians who were elected to power just once before — for 29 months in 1977-79 — only to start bickering and fall apart. Gandhi's mother was ousted at that time, but swept back to power in 1980 after the intervening government fell apart.

Ashis Nandy, an analyst at New Delhi's Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, said Gandhi also failed to meet the rising aspirations of a Third World country of 880 million people, most of whom have yet to escape poverty, disease and illiteracy.

"This is a society where the middle classes have emerged as a great voter bank," Nandy said, estimating their numbers at 200 million to 250 million. "But this is still a minority ... it's absolutely stupid the contempt for the other Indians that this middle class shows."

And the middle class — the people who read newspapers, have money to spend, are politically aware — also began to tire of their government, he said.

Two years ago, Nandy predicted that India was headed for a series of one-term leaders as a restless electorate looked for changes that did not come fast enough.

"Had there not been a Mr. Singh, the Indian middle classes

turned his back on the bosses in the party whose ticket had brought him to power. His confidantes and aides included personal friends with no experience in politics."

He reshuffled his cabinet at least 20 times in five years, never quite attaining a workable combination.

One of his closest aides, who ended up managing the fraud and violence-marred election campaign in Gandhi's own constituency, was a fellow pilot from the prime minister's days at Indian Airlines.

His speech writer was a man of biting wit who sometimes peppered the prime minister's addresses with barbs aimed at the very people he was supposed to be honouring by his presence.

His official spokesman was aloof and often unavailable to the reporters who covered Gandhi's daily activities.

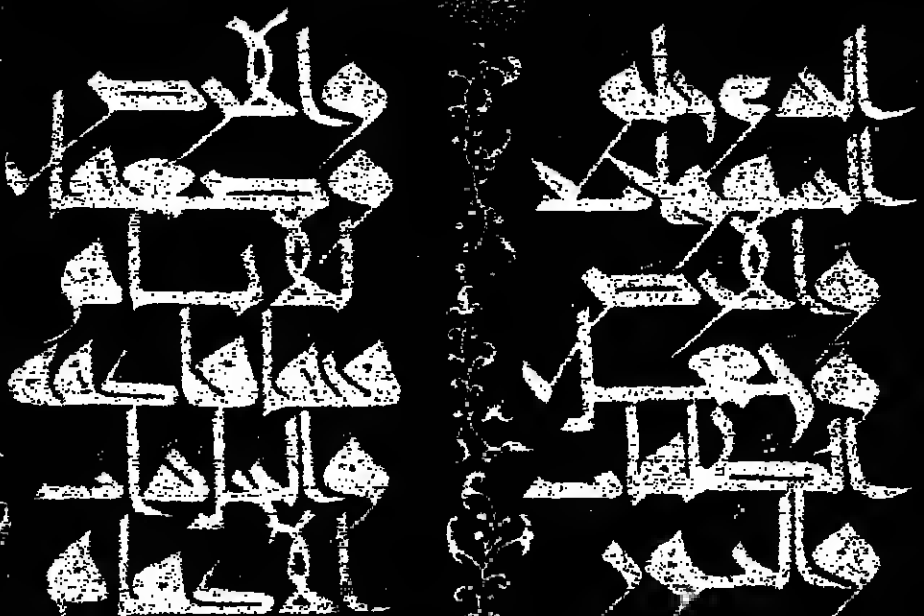
And there were few places in the country where the Cambridge-educated Gandhi and his Italian wife Sonia seemed to belong, certainly not in his own dirt-poor constituency of Amethi, no matter how many electricity poles and blacktopped roads he pumped into it.

Fluent and confident in English, he sounded squeaky, even hesitant, in Hindi, mispronouncing words and throwing in English phrases. He was outclassed at his campaign rallies by local orators who warned up the crowds — and tried to keep them from leaving before the prime minister arrived — sometimes hours behind schedule.

The Nehru-Gandhi dynasty brought Rajiv to power, but it didn't keep him there. His mother suffered the same lesson in 1977, but she managed to rebound in less than three years and hold on until her assassination in 1984.

Some doubt whether her son has the same stamina, even if his nemesis Singh falters and his National Front falls apart before its term expires in 1994.

"If he can't stage a comeback within the next six months or the next year, he doesn't have the resilience to rough it out for the next five years," Nandy said.



Khairat Saleh, "Creation II"

Women artists thrive in Jordan

This is the first of two articles on women artists in Jordan.

By Nelly Lama

THE CITY OF AMMAN has experienced an upheaval of the women artists. Every gallery seems to be demonstrating the skills of a woman painter, sculptor, graphic artist or decorator.

THE SPANISH CENTRE offers us the works of two creative women, Na'amat Al Naser, a graphic artist, and Larissa Najjar, a sculptor.

NAAMAT AL NASER studied in the College of Fine Arts. She now teaches graphics at the Institute of Fine Arts in Amman.

Naamat's exhibited works range from her earliest trials to her latest, more mature work. It shows a constant development, great leaps forward, a growing sensitivity to shades and values.

She moves from naturalistic to making expressionistic work, going deep into her personal spirit, her happy psyche. The curvilinear outline of the figures is repeated in an almost constant, showing the reverberations of the drama in the scene.

Other scenes depict the strife of a nation. As the first works swell into depths of feeling through concentric undulations and curvilinearities, the latter ones stand in more structured shapes, squares and rectangles, with bodies stretching upward with pain and courage. All this stands in full contrast to her local, rural landscapes that lack both feeling and stability. This might be because Naamat has to look outside herself to depict such scenes, her realistic vision obviously lacks the same harmony and unity prevalent in her more expressionistic works, those derived from her inner feelings rather than her visual observation of the outside world. Her forte, however, is her power over the human body, stretching it to its limit, rocking it around, all this to serve the expression that she wants it to convey.

In one of her graphic works, she renders two ropes, hooked together at the centre and being pulled out into extreme tension. This is accentuated by the concentric circles that emanate gradually from the centre out, grading systematically from dark to light. A drop of liquid falls from that centre of tension... sweat or blood...? Whatever the imagery, the feeling is masterfully conveyed.

LARISSA NAJJAR, sculptor, was born in Moscow. She studied the philosophy of aesthetics of western modernist philosophers at the University of Moscow. She joined a number of artistic workshops there before arriving in Amman where she studied at the Institute of Fine Arts. She has, since 1986, been working for the restoration and modelling section of the Department of Antiquities.

Larissa displays one ceramic sculpture that bears the same curvilinear outlines as Van Gogh's 'Owl'. It stands so solidly, yet in full motion, in contrast to her other sculptures, carved in sandstone, whose monolithic mass stands statically on a wide base, losing none of the sturdiness of the stone, but granting it more meaning. On these smooth, one finds superficially rendered human features, an eye there and a nose there. The bone structure is flattened and stylized, often, following a corner that serves as a nose, treated in the manner of ancient South American sculptures, with the same rendering of exaggerated features, a pronounced mouth, etc.

Some faces bear a certain expression, mostly sarcastic or angry while other faces depict a certain amount of idealism ranging from solemnity to being totally lethargic and expressionless.

The sandstone used bears inherent sensitive colouring, where beiges and yellows turn pink and purple, leaving horizontal striations that give a peacefulness to the work. Other striations form a relief on the surface as if it were of natural weathering. The rough texture of one of the stones overcomes the effect of the features, they are not pronounced enough to bear the burden of its surface texture or its deep purple colouring.

Some sculptures make you circle around them, trying to find more faces and more features as you go. The only detrimental factor in this superficial superimposition of facial details is that, although they seem to seek priority, they slowly lose their force and meaning to the advantage of a more confirmed general shape, except in the instance when that shape is a monolith that makes less of a personal statement.

Some works have a deeper, more voluminous rendering, such as the Picasso-like intermingling of features that recall the same sarcastic expression mentioned before.

Larissa also displays wood constructions, some of which depict biomorphic as well as zoomorphic shapes, with a deep brown-black patina. Some stand elegantly outlined against the lighter background while others are huddled in a mass, showing protrusions in all directions. There are thick at times and straw-like at others, which makes the basic shape richer and more interesting. Here again one is invited to turn around the shape, but he is seeking unity, or looking for it within the variety?

A well-priced exhibition that is worth seeing.

ABDEL-HAMID SHOO-MAN FOUNDATION displays in its exhibition hall the work of two women, Khairat Al-Saleh (Syrian) and Yola Nami (Lebanese), both artists use Arabic calligraphy as the basic subject matter in their works.

Khairat Al-Saleh, born in Jerusalem of Syrian parents studied in Damascus and Cairo before leaving for London where she studied English poetry and drama. A true 'Renaissance woman' she wants to learn all the arts and experience them. She composes music, writes books (Her book 'Myths and Legends of the Arab World' is being sold at the exhibition), she has tried her hand at ceramics, stained glass, painting on textiles, etc.

The works she exhibits at the moment are highly decorative, minutely worked, colourful etchings of calligraphy, set within a frame in the style of old Arab and Islamic illuminated manuscripts which derive from Byzantine and Syriac precedents. She adds colour and gold leaf to her etchings, not being totally satisfied with the effect of aquatint. Every edition of her work bears different colours making it inherently different from any other. The same etching coloured blue is spiritual and romantic while coloured green it acquires a very down to earth vegetative quality.

Using two verses of 'The Creation' in old Kufic script, solemnly painted in gold on a deep blue ground, she frames them with a highly colourful painting of the planets rendered in scientific details. 'Creation II' is framed with a paradise landscape maintaining, in spite of its intense and varied colouring, the mosaic texture that the original design bears. This intricate but fine work complements the velvety blue interior in a very unexpected way. Two floral motifs that stand with-

ing from solemnity to being totally lethargic and expressionless.

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The diploma virus..... an unemployment disease

By Mohammed M. Asfour

AMMAN — It is neither unfamiliar nor rare to hear a mother, or father, boasting that their son or daughter has just graduated with a degree, often referring to their offspring as Dr. or Engineer with an x or y specialisation. Similarly, parents are proud to announce that a university graduate has proposed to their daughter. However, if the future son-in-law is without a diploma, then the announcement is made with a subdued voice without much elaboration.

Has the "Diploma Virus" reached epidemic proportions in our society? The answer is a definitive 'yes'. The idea of having a university degree has become such a preoccupation that it is no longer a means but is in itself an end. In most cases, parents and social standards combine to exert a lot of pressure on the young to pursue a degree regardless of the financial strain or the psychological suffering. So much so, that these pressures have encouraged some people to use crooked means in order to obtain their diplomas.

Successive generations have looked upon a degree as a symbol of success and achievement, and a passport to a good job. So, they pursued it hoping to improve their standard of living, seemingly oblivious to the fact that success, creativity and genius do not come by way of a diploma, but through hard work, tireless toil, true and continuous effort and by seeking perfection in doing a job regardless of its nature or location.

It was in the 1980s, that this proverbial 'virus' first appeared. In that decade, most Arab and Islamic countries were going through a period of political turmoil with subsequent financial instability. People lived in a state of restlessness and the average income was quite low, and, therefore, so was the standard of living. A university education was then regarded as a means of improving social status and increasing one's income. This period coincided with the beginning of the implementation of Development Plans in Jordan, and the discovery of oil in the Arabian Gulf countries, which resulted in a high demand for university graduates of all levels and disciplines, to fill the newly created vacuum. Consequently, the standard of living rose sharply and the conviction in the feasibility and advantage of a higher education was strengthened to reach an all-time high, fuelled by people's greed for a better life and the luxury of financial stability resulting from an increased income.

The availability of employment

1950s, at high income levels continued into the beginning of the Arab World in general and Jordan in particular were hit with a recession that slowed down economic growth and development. As a result, unemployment rose sharply among university particularly doctors and engineers. Experts call this phenomenon "Structural Unemployment" which they define as the incompatibility of the market demand with what the educational system turns out. A university degree had thus become a burden rather than an advantage.

One would have expected a change of views regarding diplomas, but instead, people continued their relentless pursuit of

qualifications that would neither pave the way for a job, nor give them the satisfaction of a higher social status. Degrees have become so plentiful and commonplace that their true value has been lost.

What can be done to remedy this trend? People will have to appreciate that excellence, achievement and success come from hard work, from believing in the merits of one's job, and from having a sense of responsibility and loyalty. They will have to learn that a university degree is only a means, and will never be a guarantee for success. Through the ages, the world has seen many individuals who had only basic

educational training, rise to the top of the achievement ladder. This was reached, not because of the degree which they never had, but due to their hard work. Their conviction and belief that the person, as well as national goals can be attained through persistence is what fuelled their success.

In conclusion, unless Jordan formulates a new educational policy directed towards needed specialties, the "Diploma Disease" may develop into a terminal cancer which can threaten the entire Jordanian financial, economic and social structure. One must remember that though higher education should never be underrated or belittled, it, in itself will never "A Man Make".

The highest tightrope

By Jean-Marc Dupuich

IN ORDER to celebrate the declaration of human rights on 26th August, a cable had been stretched from the esplanade at the Palais de Chaillot to the Eiffel Tower. The 700 metre long cable gradually rose to a height of 100 metres. On the rope, there was Philippe Petit.

Standing out from the monumental stone building of the Palais de Chaillot, his frail figure was barely visible from the Champs de Mars beneath the Eiffel Tower.

As a tightrope walker of liberty, he was going back in time, from the 1937 Universal Exhibition to the one in 1889, on a wire cast across the labyrinth of the wind. Free and poised, the heavenly pedestrian supported his balancing pole on the mass of air, the invisible and the void. He was free because he was light. His progress was like breathing and reminded one of Rainer Maria Rilke: "To breathe, oh you the invisible poem! An unceasing exchange of the being in oneself in the heart of pure universal space."

Yet his freedom was restricted by the metal line and the risk of a slip into the void.

With a steady step, he grew larger in the eyes of the spectators on the left bank. Now and again, he lay down on the wire, looking heavenward. He sat down and relaxed his muscles, greeting the crowd and addressing the sky.

The child who used to climb right to the tops of trees in his family garden "reaching out on tiptoe to become taller than the tree", still lives within him. What great combats he has led since then, whose tales are told in his autobiographical work ("Trois

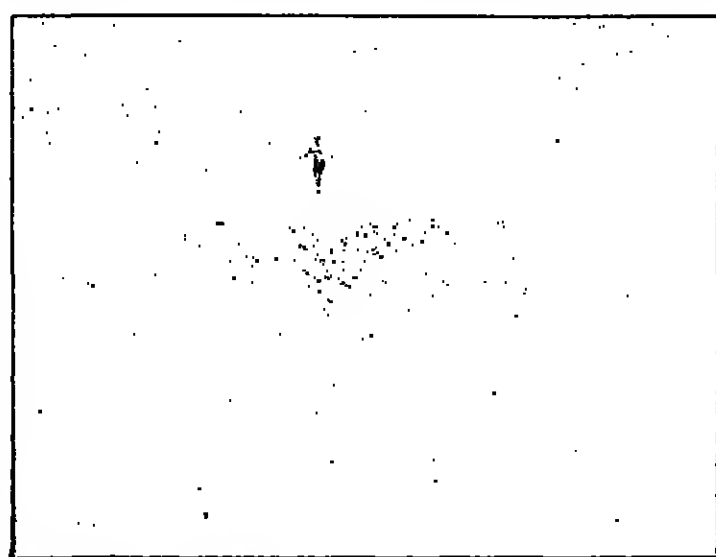
100 metres in the air

Comps", published by Herscher). The three achievements mentioned in the title of his book are the three crossings he made between the towers of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, the World Trade Centre in New York (400 metres up) and Sydney Harbour Bridge in Australia, and each time the police was waiting to pick up the stroller of the skies.

The crossing between the towers of Notre Dame Cathedral conjures up the memory of the legendary figures from Victor Hugo's novel, Esmeralda, brought up in the street, and Quasimodo the keeper of the building giddily swinging on the cathedral's big bell.

Let us return to that 26th August. A man, dressed in gaudy colours, was slowly walking in the sky with his fair hair blowing in the wind.

A dense crowd of 100,000 spectators of all nationalities watched him with emotion. He continued to climb. He was applauded and waved at even from afar. (Could he see those gestures? What did it



100 metres in the air

matter? The crowd needed to make some movement of fellow feeling. Some of them closed their fingers around imaginary balancing poles. A little girl on her father's shoulders, swayed with the graceful movement of a dancer.

He was felt to be happy. The people were happy. Tears sprang to the eyes. It was beautiful and people were afraid. What if he fell? They did not want him to. It was impossible. And yet there was that great abyss on each side of his very slender wire.

And the man walked on, more beautiful than an angel, as angels do not die, and more beautiful than men in flying machines, as they content themselves with imitating birds, whereas he, the funambulist, walked. He retraced that very human act which one falteringly learns as a small child, uncertainly leaving loving hands towards a dazzling smile, and which one repeats without thinking about it, on the firmness of the ground, but he did it in the impalpable sky and each step deceived death. — French features.

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Qatar to sign \$400m gas loan next week

BAHRAIN (R) — Qatar will sign a \$400 million loan to help finance development of its giant North Field gas reservoir on Dec. 11, ending a nine-month delay, Gulf-based bankers said.

The bankers said the rise in oil prices since the three-year loan was first mooted had most likely alleviated the immediate need for financing through borrowing.

Nothing happened to make it need to borrow disappear," one Gulf banker said. "With oil prices firming, there was probably no pressure to conclude the deal," he said.

Mid-east oil prices have averaged at \$15-\$16 a barrel in 1989 compared with about \$13 the previous year.

Qatar National Bank, agent for Qatar General Petroleum Corp

(OGPC), would sign in Doha on behalf of the 60-odd banks taking part, the bankers said.

The loan, which was initially to have been signed in March, is priced at a margin of 22.5 basis points above the London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR).

Another reason for the delay was the country's inexperience with such large loans and several levels of authorisation had been required, the bankers said.

Qatar, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), depends on oil revenue for most of its income

and is producing around 350,000 barrels per day (b/d) of crude. Earlier this year it was pumping about 400,000 b/d, well above its OPEC-assigned quota of 329,000. The ceiling was raised to 346,000 b/d last month as part of an overall hike in OPEC output for the fourth quarter of 1989.

OGPC General Manager Jaber Al Marri was quoted as saying in October work on the North Field gas project was more than 60 per cent complete, with gas from two wells already tested.

He said the plan was to drill 16 wells in the first phase to produce 800 million cubic feet of gas a day, mainly for domestic use. A projected 50,000 barrels per day of gas liquids would also be processed for export.



Jordanian officials express desire to expand economic relations to a Syrian trade delegation currently visiting Jordan (Petra photo)

Jordan stresses economic cooperation with Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Innab Monday stressed Jordan's intention to go ahead with plans to remove all obstacles that impede trade between Jordan and Syria and to pave the way for further investments in joint projects.

The minister was speaking at a meeting with Mr. Badruddin Al Shallah, president of the Syrian Federation of Chambers of Trade and its accompanying delegation.

Referring to Jordanian-Syrian trade talks which started

here Sunday, Innab said they were in implementation of resolutions by the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee which supervises and directs matters related to integration between the two countries in trade and industrial fields.

Innab also commended the work of the federations of commerce and industry in both countries because, he said, they play a leading role in promoting economic relations.

Referring to Syrian-Jordanian

agreements in industry and trade, the minister said they form a framework within which organisations in the two countries can operate to promote trade exchanges and enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade were present at the meeting.

Shallah and his delegation Sunday opened talks with the Federation of Jordanian Chamber of Commerce to discuss economic and trade issues.

Arab oil producers criticise World Energy Conference

KUWAIT (AP) — The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) complained Monday the recent World Energy Conference (WEC) neglected issues affecting its Arab members and other developing countries.

OAPEC said though more than 90 countries were represented at the 14th World Energy Conference in Montreal, only two per cent of the participants, the papers presented and the committee members were from Arab countries.

"The 14th congress was dominated by the views of the industrial countries. Discussions consequently focused on non-oil energy sources and attempts to shift away from petroleum under the pretext of energy conservation," said an editorial in the December issue of OAPEC's Monthly Bulletin.

It added that "environmental issues concentrated almost exclusively on reducing dependence on oil."

It complained that such issues as the energy supplies needed by non-oil producing developing countries were largely ignored.

The editorial also said pollution issues, such as the discharge of waste by oil tankers, of concern to developing countries were also disregarded.

The 11-member OAPEC, which is based in Kuwait, groups Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Bahrain, Egypt, Syria and Tunisia. The first seven are also members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"As an Arab organisation concerned with energy, it is pertinent for us to consider the impact of

the conference's conclusions on the developing countries, and the Arab countries in particular, since the latter will continue to be a major source of world oil and gas supplies for many decades," OAPEC said.

The editorial attributed the meager Arab leverage at the WEC to the small number of Arab countries that are full members.

It urged Arab and other developing countries to seek full membership at the next meeting due to be held in the Spanish capital, Madrid, in 1992.

"More effort must be exerted to give a greater role to the oil exporting developing countries and other developing countries, so that the conference's deliberations may represent the views of a larger proportion of the world's population than just the industrial nations," OAPEC said.

Zloty goes further down

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The National Bank of Poland devalued the Polish zloty by 9.5 per cent Monday, continuing a drive to create a convertible currency that would encourage Western

economic investment.

The new rate is 4,200 zlotys to the dollar, compared with 3,800 a week ago. The zloty was devalued similarly against other Western currencies.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

As of December 4, 1989
Central Bank official rates

Buy	Sell	French franc	105.8	106.9
100.0	101.2	Japanese yen (for 100)	447.2	451.7
100.0	101.2	Dutch guilder	324.3	322.5
100.0	101.2	Swedish crown	100.9	101.9
100.0	101.2	Italian lire (for 100)	49.0	49.5
100.0	101.2	Belgian franc (for 10)	171.7	173.4

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.5665/75	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1645/55	Canadian dollar	
	1.7763/70	Deutschemarks	
	2.0010/20	Dutch guilders	
	1.5930/40	Swiss francs	
	37.26/30	Belgian francs	
	6.0650/0700	French francs	
	1308/1310	Italian lire	
	143.35/45	Japanese yen	
	6.3625/75	Swedish crowns	
	6.8000/50	Norwegian crowns	
	6.8900/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	410.00/410.50	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Renewed hopes of a fall in interest rates pushed Australia's share market to its strongest daily gain in more than a month. The All Ordinaries Index closed up 21.8 at 1646.4.

TOKYO — Tokyo share prices erased Friday's losses, jumping to a record close in brisk trading. The Nikkei Index surged 171.19 to end at 37,303.87.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed firmer but off earlier highs on lack of trading interest, brokers said. The Hang Seng Index rose 10.56 points to close at 2,767.46.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed firmer on continued foreign and institutional buying support despite scattered profit-taking. The Straits Times Index rose 10.21 points to close at 1,426.92.

BOMBAY — Equities rose sharply as opposition National Front leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh assumed charge as India's new prime minister, brokers said.

FRANKFURT — Sunday's resignation of East German Communist Party leadership and the positive outcome of the superpowers summit attracted foreign buying to boost prices. The Dax Index rose 1.4 per cent to close at 1,634.31.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed quietly firmer. Dealers said the higher Wall Street was a supportive factor but high Swiss interest rates later depressed prices. The All-Share Index rose 2.3 points to 1,511.5.

PARIS — French share prices were sharply higher at midday on steady demand for blue chips. The CAC Index was up 21.71 points at 1,941.43 by 1245 GMT.

LONDON — Share prices in late trading stood near the day's lows after nine consecutive days of gains. By 1630 the FTSE Index was 10.0 points down at 2,301.1.

NEW YORK — Mounting concern about the business outlook held buyers and sellers to a stand-off with the market little changed overall. The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended at 2748 and decliners were even with

The devaluation was the eighth since Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki took office in August as the first non-communist leader in the East Bloc and initiated a radical reformation of the stagnating Polish economy.

Key to the shift toward a market-oriented system is convertibility of the currency, economic advisers say.

Like the other "soft" currencies of the East Bloc, the zloty cannot be freely exchanged with the "hard" currencies of the West and has a value set by the government, not the money market.

The official exchange rate subjected to the devaluation is used for most business transaction and certain required tourist exchanges.

Poles can legally buy dollars at a less favourable but more realistic market-driven exchange, known as the "commercial" rate.

THE BETTER HALF.

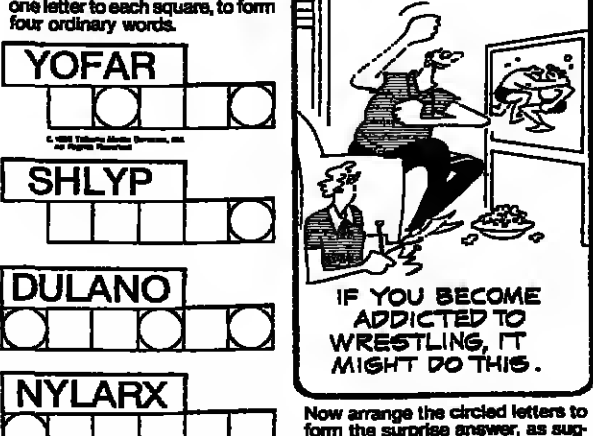
By Harris



"Dinner will be a little late. I'm trying a new seafood recipe!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: GET A [] ON [] (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: STOKES AIDED CENSUS SOLACE

Answer: What the ship's doctors generally do — "SEE SICKNESS"

Israel puts foot into Soviet door

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel is to export food to the Soviet Union, Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-Oz announced Sunday after making the first ministerial visit since Moscow cut ties with Israel in 1967.

He said Israel's state marketing board signed contracts to supply fruit and vegetables worth \$30 million to the Moscow Soviet (municipality) over the next six months.

The deal, concluded during a week-long visit, was a further sign of the Kremlin's warming relations with Israel, despite a statement by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev last week ruling out an early resumption of full diplomatic relations.

Katz-Oz told an airport news conference the Moscow deal was only an opening towards much larger Israeli agricultural exports to the Soviet Union that would allow Israeli farmers to increase acreage and output.

"I have put my foot into the door, which is now open," he said, adding that the produce would be paid for in dollars.

Soviet aircraft, expected to begin direct flights between Tel Aviv and Moscow later this month, would transport the produce — tomatoes, potatoes, onions, citrus, bananas, peaches, apples and strawberries.

The Moscow Soviet is responsible for supplying food to 15 million residents of the Soviet capital district. Fresh fruit and vegetables are notoriously scarce during winter.

The Israeli delegation signed an agreement to set up a modern dairy with Israeli equipment at a large Kolkhoz (collective farm) 80 kilometres from Moscow, Katz-Oz said.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Suhelmat meets Canadian officials

AMMAN (Petra) — The director of industrial cooperation for the Near East and North Africa region at the Canadian Agency for International Development met here Monday with Dr. Fayez Suheimat, director-general of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC). They discussed the agency's aid to Jordan. Suheimat briefed the visitor on the investment climate in the Kingdom specially in the Sahab Industrial City. Later, the two officials called at the Sahab Industrial City and inspected two of the industrial plants which were set up in cooperation with Canadian firms.

Tanzania devalues currency by 17%

DAR ES SALAAM (AP) — The Bank of Tanzania announced a 17 per cent devaluation in the shilling Sunday and said the currency will be cut even further next month. The shilling went from 157 shillings to the dollar to 190 shillings to the dollar. The bank said the Tanzanian currency would fall to around 200 shillings to the dollar by January. The devaluation is part of an International Monetary Fund structural adjustment programme to rejuvenate Tanzania's economy, which has been shattered by 20 years of socialist policies, rising world oil prices and falling commodity prices.

Italian doctors want pay rise

ROME (R) — Hospital doctors began a series of pay strikes Monday that are expected to cripple Italy's state-run health service over the next few weeks. The Cosmed Union, representing 55,000 doctors, withdrew non-essential services for the day, and plans more strikes on Dec. 14 and 15, union officials said. Another union, Cimo, has called a two-day strike for Tuesday and Wednesday and a three-day stoppage from Dec. 18. The protests follow a deadlock in talks on a new contract to replace an agreement which expired two years ago and has not been replaced. Public Administration Minister Remo Gaspari has rejected union demands for salary rises of up to 45 per cent, saying they would lead to a public sector wage spiral that would bankrupt Italy within months. The doctors are also protesting about government plans to reform the inefficient and costly health service. Unions say the reforms would punish those least able to pay for treatment.

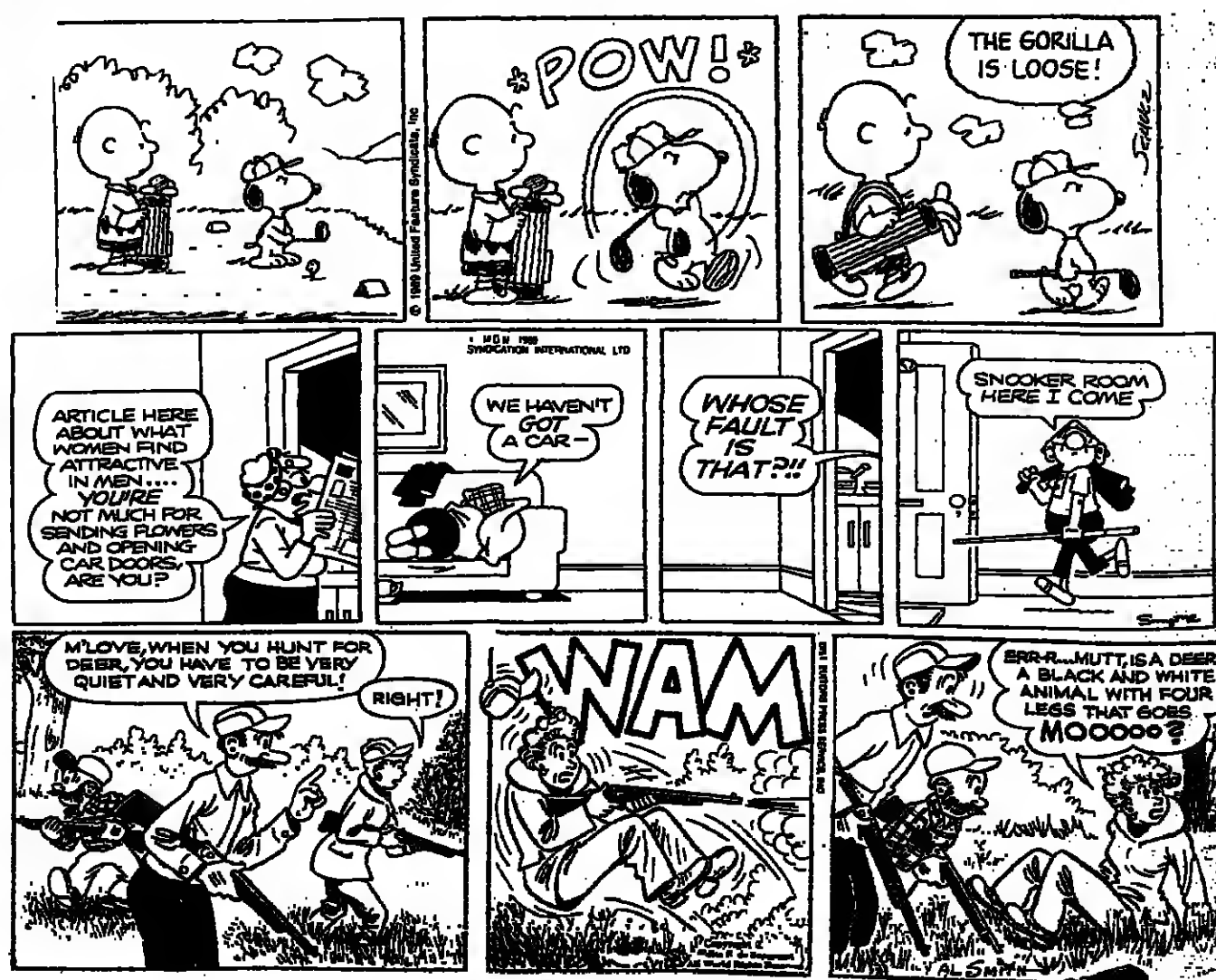
ACC housing experts open talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A technical committee formed by the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries to discuss means of promoting housing and construction cooperation among the four states opened a four-day meeting in Amman Monday. According to Youssef Hayasat, director-general of the Housing Corporation, who represents Jordan at the meeting, legislations to provide facilities for cooperation in financing investment projects and housing schemes will be among the main topics for discussion. Hayasat, who opened the meeting, underlined the importance of close cooperation among Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen to agree on unified specifications and standards in housing and construction fields. The committee, he said, would discuss ways to encourage cooperation among contracting companies in the four countries and increase an exchange of information and expertise in construction operations. At the end of the meeting, Hayasat noted the committee would submit a report on its findings to a general meeting of ACC ministers of construction and housing due to convene in Amman Dec. 27.

Peanuts

ANDY CAPP

Muttin' Jeff



Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Edberg wins Masters tournament

NEW YORK (AP) — Stefan Edberg first frustrated, then defeated Boris Becker to capture his first Masters title Sunday and halt the expected ascension of the man who would be king.

This was supposed to be Becker's show, the moment when the big-serving West German would replace Ivan Lendl as the king of tennis. Instead, the quietly effective Edberg gained a huge measure of revenge as he captured the crown 4-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3, 6-1.

And it came one day after the Swede shocked Lendl in the semifinals.

"I played some of the best

tennis of my life," Edberg said. "You have to beat those two guys two days in a row."

The title in the season-ending tournament was the perfect tonic for Edberg, who has seemed all year to fall just one victory short.

"There's been a lot of frustrations for me," he said. "I've lost a lot of finals."

Sunday wasn't one of them. Edberg defused Becker's power, fought off a set point against him in the second set, then began dominating the strawberry-blond right-hander.

"I picked up my game and he lost his rhythm," Edberg said.

"While Lendl, has ruled the men's roost, fighting off would-be contenders to the throne, Becker and Edberg have quietly built up a formidable rivalry. Becker is ranked second in the world and Edberg third.

While Becker is flamboyant, booming his way to three Wimbledon and one U.S. Open titles, Edberg has quietly amassed two Australian Open crowns and one Wimbledon championship.

This was the 21st career meeting between the two, with yet another clash scheduled for Dec. 15-17 in the Davis Cup finals in Stuttgart, West Germany.

Edberg outlasted Becker in a five-set semifinal at the French Open, but Becker was victorious in the finals at Wimbledon and the Paris indoor tournament.

On Friday, in the last day of the Round-Robin Masters format, Becker had crushed Edberg

6-1, 6-4.

"It's a pity I couldn't win the last match here," Becker said Sunday. "But I beat him two days ago."

That match didn't count when it came time to battle for the title.

It was the weight of Becker's shots, the sheer velocity of the ball coming off the West German's racket that bothered Edberg in the opening set, just as it had finished off John McEnroe

in Saturday's semifinals.

But Edberg countered that by taking the pace off the ball. Becker, whose timing was impeccable off the ground on the hard-paced balls, repeatedly found the net when trying to hit the off-speed deliveries by Edberg. And, when Becker finally did adjust, Edberg found the passing lanes with his strong, flat strokes.

Edberg actually jumped on top when he broke Becker in the second game of the match. Becker began his first service game of the match with a double-fault, and the Swede made him pay for

it.

But Becker broke right back in the third game and sailed through the first set, blasting three aces in the 10th game to close out the set.

The second set began like the first: Edberg breaking Becker in the third game and Becker breaking right back.

This time, the two battled into a tiebreaker, which Edberg started with a double-fault, his second of the match. But Becker couldn't take advantage of the "mini-break" as the Swede slammed a backhand service return that Becker sent wide.

Again Edberg double-faulted. But he followed with his second ace of the match, then won the next point on Becker's serve.

Becker reached set point when Edberg netted a backhand on the 11th point, but Edberg won his two serves, the 13th point on his third ace, then jumped on a second serve by Becker, ripping a forehand down the line to level the match at one set apiece.

With the victory, Edberg becomes the 10th winner of the Masters, and the second Swede. Bjorn Borg won the tournament in 1980-81.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An extremely good day and evening for making plans to expand your interests and activities whether they be spiritual, physical, mental or manual. Innovative ideas from others prove to be most useful now.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Home duties require more than usual of your time and energy. Go to as many interesting places as possible with your attachment now.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Look to the overall aspects of your business and not to the petty details. An opportunity is present to show special affection for your loved one.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Persons expert in money matters will advise you well about your income from your duties. Friends will be especially helpful to you at recreational now.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Many experts are now available to give you the advice in business and finances you need. Don't nag your family about getting new furnishings.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) For happiest times cultivate friends from a distance and entertain them. Invite your associates from the outside into your home and entertain them lavishly.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Younger helpful persons are the ones to invite into your home now. You should have more fun on your vacation than you have for some time.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Compliment your family by

taking them out on the town for a good time. You can not show too much affection for your attachment at this time.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) You have the chance to do a wonderful service for a good friend. Entertaining at home today will bring brilliant results.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't allow an outside associate to come into your home and cause some trouble. Stop, look and listen before being sarcastic or upset at home.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you are in need of business advice, a good friend will extend it to you. Be careful in any travelling with your attachment now.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A day not to call friends who take advantage of your generosity. Much conversation with your attachment can iron out any problems.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A private conversation with a devoted friend will bring excellent results. Enjoy all the multitudes of activity in your home today.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she would be very interested in making a great career for themselves and will take special courses in logic and analysis to assist their goals. Education is a must and their will take a very special form that will require travel to distant lands where they will have some knowledge to the local language.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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BY THE SKIN OF HIS TEETH

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ Void
♥ A J 4 3 2
♦ K 10 4
♣ K 3 6 5 4

EAST
♠ A Q 10 9 8 7
♥ Q 7 6
♦ A Q 8 7
♣ Void

SOUTH
♠ K J 6 3
♥ 10
♦ J 5
♣ A Q J 10 9 2

The bidding:
East: South West North
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass 6 ♠
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Two of ♠

There are times when you do nothing wrong yet have to pay a heavy price for an action that is right out of the book. East was the victim on this hand from a Swiss team match.

North figured his side was on the short side as the match wound down. So when this hand came along, he decided to take a gamble on making slam. Fortunately, South had the playing skill to justify North's optimism.

Declarer ruffed the opening spade lead and did not think too highly of his chances, since East was marked with most of the missing

high cards for his vulnerable opening bid. However, if those assets included the queen of diamonds and the hearts broke favorably, there was a ray of hope.

After the opening spade lead was ruffed in dummy, declarer cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart high, led a trump in the eight and ruffed another heart high. A trump to the king provided the entry for another heart ruff, setting up the jack. Declarer crossed to the table by ruffing a spade, discarded a diamond on the jack of hearts, then exited with a low diamond.

East won with the queen, but did not relish the prospect of having the lead. Whether she led a diamond or a spade, all declarer would have to do was in play her for the ace of that suit in real in the slam. The ace of diamonds would set up the king as declarer ruffed a low diamond would run to the king; the ace of spades would be ruffed on the table and the king would be high; and the king would be played if East exited with a low spade.

THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray

ACROSS

1 Envelope parts
2 Trick slice
10 Whistle away
14 Profits
15 Compel to go
20 Leaflet angle
17 Facing trouble
19 Gown material
30 Pipe joint
21 Tractable
22 Renfer
24 Roselle or Rose
25 Complaisant
26 Red wine
29 — arts
30 Tasting go.
33 Fr. composer
34 Tend
38 Impressionist
39 Claude
38 Facing trouble
41 Parson's home
42 Nimbus
43 Abound
44 Otter
45 Genesis name
47 Plays the market
49 Polish river
50 Rank
51 Method
54 Fret
55 Solist or lyson
56 Passion
59 Facing trouble
62 Fashion magazine
63 Distant
64 Fiber plant
65 Coyote
66 Ignores
67 Lived

DOWN

1 Hop around
2 "Clair de —"
3 Years
4 In favor of
5 Sofa
6 Ignorance
7 Overdue
8 Beverage
9 Divided city
10 Outmoded
11 WWII group
12 Nettle
13 Ms. Summer
14 Turkey feature
22 Varnish resin
24 Stage items
25 Plastic base
26 Shiny
27 Hawaiian veranda
28 "— flowing with —"
29 Deadify
30 Signpost
31 Confederate signatura
32 Arises
33 Heavens
37 Group of eight
38 Eng. author
40 Ir. whiskey
42 Express grief
43 Satisfy
46 Playful sea
48 Mammal
50 Cache
51 Met's place
52 Shill city
53 Vandilism
54 Data: abbr.
55 Clock
56 Jennings of old films
57 Astat
60 Space object
61 Statute

Maradona understudy spurs Napoli to victory

By Reuters

AN OBSCURE understudy to Diego Maradona emerged as Napoli's new hero after spurring the Italian league leaders to a sparkling 3-1 win against Atalanta on Sunday and a four-point lead at the top of the table.

Gianfranco Zola, a third division player two seasons ago, filled the number 10 shirt of the famous Argentine with total aplomb and completed the rout by scoring his first goal in division one, a curling shot from the edge of the area.

Zola ceded his place to Maradona, who was nursing a hack strain, for the final 10 minutes of the match and then said he owed his success to the Argentine ace.

"If I scored it's also thanks to him. He told me things that fired me up but don't go comparing us, for goodness sake," said the 23-year-old Sardinian.

The victory, which included goals from Massimo Crippa and Brazilian Careca, was the perfect tonic for UEFA cup holders Napoli as they head into a crunch third round tie against Werder Bremen on Wednesday, when Maradona is expected to play.

Bremen, who hold a one goal

first leg lead over Napoli, were less impressive at the weekend losing 2-1 away to lowly Fortuna Dusseldorf, with Genter Hermann missing his third chance from the penalty spot this season.

Napoli have a much-needed cushion against determined challenges from European champions AC Milan and Italian titleholders Internazionale.

Both lie joint second with Sampdoria, held to a scoreless draw at Lecce, after Milan beat Bologna 1-0 and Inter came back from a goal down to overcome Cesena 3-2.

In the Netherlands, Feyenoord took advantage of icy conditions to restore their tarnished reputation with a shock 4-0 home victory against defending champions PSV Eindhoven.

It was the most convincing win over PSV in 25 years for Feyenoord, who have been languishing at the bottom of the table. The Rotterdam side have won just three out of 16 matches this season and their victory still leaves them in 16th place.

PSV stay top but only on goal difference. They are level on 21 points with Ajax Amsterdam and

Roda JC but with a game in hand.

Bordeaux and Marseille continued their exclusive duel at the top of the league in France, where a long tradition ended at the weekend.

To save spectators the rigours of cold evenings, clubs played on a Sunday afternoon for the first time in more than 20 years.

Bordeaux kept their three-point lead by beating Montpellier 2-0, but their performance was overshadowed by that of Marseille and their star-striker Jean-Pierre Papin.

The French champions crushed fourth-placed Toulouse 6-1 as Papin scored a hat-trick to bring his goal tally to 15.

Behind the top duo the chase has virtually ceased, as third-placed Sochaux, beaten 1-0 at Paris Saint-Germain, are now lying 10 points behind Bordeaux.

In the Spanish league Real Madrid maintained their three-point lead despite a goalless draw to modest Celta in Vigo. Valencia beat Barcelona 2-1, leapfrogging the Catalonians to share second place with Real Sociedad.

Real Madrid coach John Toshack said the draw was a

success given that his players were still tired from their Spanish cup victory over Atletico Madrid last week.

Atletico, smarting from their cup elimination, were held to a goalless home draw against Real Sociedad.

Atletico coach Javier Clemente had no comforting words for his team, who slipped to sixth place. "We lacked punch, rhythm, control, nerves. We did not deserve to win," he said.

The constant reshuffle at the head of the West German first division continued as Bayer Leverkusen, 2-0 winners over Nuremberg, replaced Cologne at the top with 25 points from 18 matches.

Bayern Munich, Eintracht Frankfurt and Cologne are lurking, in that order, just one point behind.

Among West Germany's quartet in UEFA cup action this week, only VfB Stuttgart, who receive Antwerp, won in the league, beating Cologne 3-1.

Stuttgart, with only one goal to make up against Antwerp, will be without injured defender Guido Buchwald for Tuesday's match.

Comaneci says she fled without medals, farewells

LONDON (AP) — Olympic gymnast Nadia Comaneci has told a newspaper that she fled Romania in search of freedom from her 21 gold medals, a photograph of her family or even a last farewell to her parents.

The Mail on Sunday said it interviewed Comaneci in New York on Saturday night. It did not reveal her current whereabouts.

Some news reports have said Comaneci was going to Miami, others speculated her destination was Indianapolis, Houston or Orlando, Florida.

Fatti Aver, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Gymnastics Federation, said officials of the organization had flown to New York to speak with Comaneci but could not contact her.

"We're hoping that she'll try to get hold of Bela, or his wife, Martha, who she finds out that Bela is back in the country," Auer said.

The newspaper said Comaneci's defection was arranged by Constantine Panit, whom it identified as a California builder. A Koostantian Panit accompanied Comaneci at a New York news conference on Friday, and Romanian exiles said Comaneci would stay with Panit and his family in a community of Romanians in south Florida. It was unclear whether the two were the same man.

"Konstantin, who I met two years ago, came to Romania on Nov. 6 and secretly mentioned his plan to me at the birthday party of a friend," the newspaper

quoted the 28-year-old Comaneci as saying.

"And last Sunday (Nov. 26) night, we decided to make it work. We left my parents' home in Bucharest in a hire (rental) car headed for the town of Timisoara near the Hungarian border."

"I could tell on one I was escaping," she was quoted as saying. "I could not say goodbye to my parents. I even had to lie to my brother. I was frightened, of course I was. I was scared of being picked up by the Romanian authorities. My fear was kept at bay by my determination."

Panit dropped Comaneci and six other friends off 10 miles from the Hungarian border, the newspaper quoted her as saying. "It was midnight when we

started out, walking through mud and open countryside. We were stumbling and often crawling through water and ice," it quoted her as saying.

"I was wearing my ordinary clothes, a pair of trainers (running shoes) and a denim jacket with jeans. They are the same clothes I am in now. I could not bring anything else with me, not even my precious gold medals or a photograph of my family."

British Ladies of Amman

Morning meeting - 6 December
Amra Hotel - 10 a.m.
Afternoon meeting - 13 December
Amra Hotel - 4 p.m.
Speaker



RETURN OF LEBANESE HAIRDRESSER NAJI ZEIDAN

Lebanese hairdresser Naji Zeidan returned to Amman from France after acquiring the latest hairstyle skills for 1990 and now welcomes ladies of society at Yassin Habawal Salon- Marriott Hotel as of today, for reservation call 660100



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Cinema

CONCORD

OXFORD BLUES

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema

PHILADELPHIA

A BOOK OF HEROES

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema

NJLOUM

Nadia Al Jundi In TERRORISM (Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

PLAZA

Jack Nicholson & Kim Basinger BATMAN

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Singh promises more aid for poor

NEW DELHI (R) — V.P. Singh, in his first address as India's new prime minister, has promised to devote half of government resources to villages, where most of the country's 810 million people live.

He also said an independent agency would be set up to investigate corruption, following a scandal over alleged bribes paid by Swedish arms manufacturer Bofors to win a \$1.3-billion artillery contract.

The scandal was one of the main factors leading to the election defeat of Singh's predecessor, Rajiv Gandhi, in the general election late last month.

"Even the prime minister is not above such scrutiny," Singh, who was sworn in Saturday, said in his televised speech Sunday. "Our democracy has to be liberated from the evil influence of money power."

He pledged that "if power is a sword, it will be wielded on behalf of the poor and toiling masses."

"India lives in its villages. Today, there is flight of wealth, labour and talent from these villages. As long as this continues, villages will be economically weak," said Singh, an adopted member of a minor princely family.

"We have resolved that at least half of the government resources will be channelled to rural areas," added Singh, who was finance minister and briefly defence minister in the Gandhi government. He resigned in April 1987 amid a furor over his probe into the Bofors scandal.

Singh promised to forgive the debts of landless farmers and rural workers, and to introduce legislation to devolve power from



V.P. Singh

the central government to the villages.

"The fire of hunger can be extinguished by food. But the fire that ignites the mind of the disinherited can only culminate in revolution," he declared.

Singh heads a fragile minority government that depends on the support of two groups that detest each other — the left-wing Marxist parties and the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party.

Singh said state-run television and radio, which the opposition accused of being a mouthpiece of Gandhi's Congress Party, "would be given autonomy."

He spoke of the violent and bitter campaign that ousted Congress for only the second time since independence from Britain in 1947.

"After a long dark night, the day has dawned. But it is a misty dawn. The coffers of the government are empty. There has been much violence and bloodshed. Inflation has impoverished our people."

"Much blood has been spilled. Now it is time to shed some tears so this can be washed away," Singh said.

At least 130 people were killed during campaigning and several hundred more died in communal clashes in the northern heartland in the bloodiest election in Indian history.

60 Sinhalese rebels surrender

COLOMBO (R) — Sixty more Sinhalese radicals have surrendered, bringing to 160 the number of extremists who have accepted the government's amnesty offer, the state-run radio said Monday.

Radio Rupavahini said there would be no extension of the amnesty offer that was announced Friday and scheduled to end at 6 p.m. (0030 GMT) Monday. The latest surrenders were reported during the last 24 hours, it said.

Sri Lankan air force helicopters dropped about 350,000 pamphlets over rebels strongholds in central and southern Sri Lanka Sunday, assuring the radicals of safety if they surrendered, the radio said.

It said camps have been set up in temples and police stations to receive the rebels of the People's Liberation Front (JVP), an ultra-nationalist group that has been trying to overthrow the government since 1987.

The amnesty was the first offered by the government since security forces killed the front's top leaders last month. Although earlier amnesties led to hundreds of surrenders, the violence continued Sri Lanka.

A government statement said front activists killed two policemen and a soldier in separate attacks Sunday and early Monday.

It said troops shot to death two radicals and captured another during the same period. The statement from the information department did not give details.

More than 6,000 people have

been killed since the front began attacking the government to protest an Indian sponsored peace accord that was aimed at pacifying Tamil secessionists in the northeast.

As the attacks escalated, so did the killings of young Sinhalese described by the government as suspected members of the front. The government blamed most of those killings on pro-government vigilante groups, but opposition politicians and human rights activists said some of the killings were carried out by government forces.

The front also protested the presence of Indian peacekeeping soldiers, deployed to supervise the accord signed in July 1987. India has promised to withdraw all troops by Dec. 31.

More than 1,100 Indian soldiers have died in Sri Lanka, mostly in battles with the largest Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The Tigers initially accepted the pact but quickly reneged and returned to the bush.

In their latest attack, the Tigers ambushed and killed four members of a 12-man Indian patrol near Trincomalee, about 240 kilometres northeast of Sri Lanka, military officials said.

Tamils make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people and are mostly Hindus. They complain of discrimination in jobs and education by the Sinhalese-dominated government.

Sinhalese are mostly Buddhists and make up 75 per cent of the population.

More than 10,000 Sri Lankas have been killed since the Tamil insurgency started in 1983.

Le Pen's party notches a win

PARIS (R) — National concern over immigration has put an end to 18 months of political exile for France's National Front, landing the ultra-right party a much-needed seat in parliament.

The anti-immigrant, anti-tax party, crushed in general elections last year, gained a new lease of life Sunday when it triumphed in the final round of a by-election in the western town of Dreux and came a close second in Marseille.

Marie-France Stirbois, widow of a prominent National Front leader, won an overwhelming 61 per cent of the vote in Dreux, with the mainstream RPR Right polling just 39 per cent.

She will be the only National Front member in the 577-seat National Assembly.

In Marseille, extreme right candidate Marie-Claude Roussel polled 47 per cent, just behind the centrist UDF with 53 per

cent. But the National Front scored locally further north, winning a district council election in Salon-de-Provence.

"This is a moment of national importance," said party leader Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Political analysts said the party has benefitted from a drawn-out debate over whether the daughters of North African immigrants should be allowed to wear their Muslim headscarves in class, defying French education's secular tradition.

The issue first cropped up two months ago in a school in the northern town of Creil and the controversy it stirred over acceptable levels of immigration, Islamic fundamentalism and problems of integration still burns.

The latest vote was a slap in the face for the socialist government and their Communist allies.

E. Germans hope for better future

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germans, hewildered but hopeful after political upheaval which has toppled a discredited Communist leadership, offered widely differing predictions Monday for the future of a once-unchallenged ruling party.

Some believed Sunday's mass resignations sounded the Communist Party's death-knell.

Others thought the party might be able to transform itself into a social democratic party, while some felt it might settle for a back-seat role as a minor group on the political scene.

"It is chaos, isn't it?" asked Gaby Mueller, a 34-year-old teacher from Karl-Marx-Stadt, in the south-west of the country, who was visiting the capital

with her family. Party leader Egon Krenz and the entire Communist hierarchy voted themselves out of office in Sunday's upheaval and expelled from their ranks former leader Erich Honecker, who built the Berlin Wall, and 11 other old guard leaders.

Mueller swept her red coat tighter around her against the cold wind on East Berlin's mammoth Alexander Square, built in the 1960s as a tribute to the socialist worker's state.

The party's disintegration climaxed weeks of high political drama in which borders with the West were opened and the wall was breached, allowing hundreds of thousands of East Germans to stream into West Germany to meet their kinsmen.

"If anyone had predicted

this eight weeks ago he would have been taken for mad," Mueller said.

"Soon there won't be any Communist Party," said Klaus Mueller, her 34-year-old husband who is a sports teacher. "Hopefully something good will come out of this and that there will be a new labour party," he said.

"Maybe it will become a social democratic party," Gaby Mueller said. "I have great faith in (reformist Premier Hans) Modrow."

"The name of the party is immaterial," Klaus Mueller said. "The important thing is the programme."

East Germans interviewed in the street believed the party would never dominate the political scene again.

"The party will either dis-

solve itself or if it continues to exist it will play a minor role," said Peter Eggert. "I think either way this will allow the Liberal Democrats and the Social Democrats to take on a larger role in politics."

The Liberal Democrats (LDPD) are one of four small parties in a Communist-led coalition, while the Social Democrats (SDP) are one of a handful of reform groups formed in recent weeks.

Eggert said he did not believe Modrow, the Communists' leading reformer and widely respected across the board, would manage to steer the country out of crisis.

"He won't make it, what with the party apparatus and the whole bureaucracy. It will take five years to change things," he said.

People expressed outrage at the corruption among hardline former Communist leaders now being exposed.

"We had an inkling there was corruption but we never thought it was so widespread," Klaus Mueller said.

The arrests of two politburo members — ex-economy chief Guenter Mittag and one-time trade union boss Harry Tisch — for defrauding the state was warmly welcomed by people in the street.

But old suspicions lingered. "I would like to know what jail they are in," said Karin Grabe, a 45-year-old engineer.

"I would assume they have not been put in an ordinary jail but in a fine prison for party officials — probably watching TV in their cells," she sneered.

Bogota rejects druglords' truce

BOGOTA, Colombia (Agencies) — The government has dismissed a truce declared by drug traffickers in their terrorist campaign as another form of intimidation.

"After the truce is declared, the intimidation begins," Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds said Sunday. But he noted that if the government did not meet drug traffickers' demands, "the attacks, the bombings and the assassinations" would begin again.

The Medellin cocaine cartel announced that from Monday it would observe a "ceasefire" in its terrorist offensive in order to convince congress to approve a national referendum on the government's extradition policy.

President Virgilio Barco reinstated the extradition of Colombian drug suspects to the United States as part of a crackdown against the cocaine cartels that began Aug. 18.

Since then, the administration has extradited nine suspects, and traffickers have used a bombing campaign to try to pressure the government into ending the policy.

Twenty-nine people have been killed in 200 bombings and 238 have been injured.

Lemos Simmonds said the government would not reciprocate the traffickers' truce.

"We will continue battling them because if we don't, we will cease to govern," said the minister, who is acting president while Barco is on a 4-day official visit to Japan.

After a farewell ceremony for Barco at Bogota's El Dorado airport Sunday, Lemos Simmonds repeated the government's opposition to an extradition referendum.

"If the government accepted this proposal, the country would

be left to be governed by the desires of drug traffickers," he told reporters.

El Tiempo newspaper, citing a television report, quoted Norberto Morales Ballesteros, president of the Colombian house of representatives, as saying "The Extraditables" group would begin their truce Monday to support a congressional move to include the extradition issue in a referendum next month.

The Extraditables, often identified with the Medellin cartel, is blamed by authorities for the bombings and assassinations which followed its declaration of "total war" against the Colombian establishment Aug. 24.

The frequency of bomb attacks and assassinations blamed on the Extraditables abated about one month ago, police say.

El Tiempo had quoted Morales Ballesteros as saying he learned the Extraditables group was declaring the unilateral truce to support a motion by the house's first congressional commission to include extradition on a referendum scheduled for Jan. 21 on constitutional issues.

The Extraditables want extradition to be included on the referendum, according to Morales Ballesteros. But President Barco says a referendum on that issue would cause a blood-bath.

Barco has said the drug traffickers would terrorize, intimidate and use their money to try to sway voters. But the Extraditables, according to Morales Ballesteros, denied they planned any violence before such a referendum.

It is now up to the full house and the senate to decide whether they want to include extradition on the referendum, Lemos Simmonds said.



Bystanders flee as government troops take up position on a pedestrian flyover in Manila against rebel soldiers.

Foreigners trapped in Manila

MANILA (R) — Hundreds of foreign tourists and businessmen were trapped inside four luxury hotels and several apartment blocks in Manila Monday as bitter street battles raged outside.

A British tourist told how the flat he rented in Riz Towers, on the main Ayala Avenue in Makati business district, was seized Saturday by rebel troops who launched a coup against President Corason Aquino one day earlier.

"They took over the swimming pool area, then they were banging on the door," said Adam Topping, who lives in Hong Kong. "By 6.30 in the evening there were 25 armed people in that flat and I did not want to be there," said Topping, who moved into the nearby Manila Mandarin Hotel, which is guarded by government forces.

The rebels holed up in the heavily-populated Makati area Saturday afternoon after Aquino's forces repulsed their attack on the Manila military headquarters.

Tourists and businessmen

stayed indoors because of the fighting, with rebels using Bazookas and grenades against attacking government troops.

One American was wounded by sniper fire in the five-star Peninsula Hotel, the Makati Medical Centre said. It was not clear how badly he was hurt.

At the Mandarin Hotel, government forces guarded the lobby and only guests and hotel staff were allowed inside.

Marksmen were on nearby buildings and manager Daniel Pauwert said some windows had been hit in crossfire.

"The only problem is cross-fire," he said. "Everybody is in the bathroom where there are no windows."

But in the Mandarin lobby, Japanese businessman Hiroshi Ito, from Tokyo, was using his time to take photographs of government constabulary soldiers relaxing.

Outside streets were deserted and the chatter of machine gun fire echoed across nearby high-rise office blocks and bank buildings.

At the Peninsula, a guest said things were getting "a little tense."

"There'll be a big rush to the airport, if they let us go," he said.

The international airport resumed flights Monday after being closed for three days but people in Makati were boxed in by the battle outside. However, some brave taxi-drivers were willing to take customers "a special route" for a price.

Rebels occupied the ballroom and rooftop of the Inter-Continental hotel, where a Roman Catholic priest Sunday said mass for some of the mutineers.

President Aquino accused the rebels of using the civilian population and hotel guests as "human shields."

The Japanese-owned Nikko Manila Garden Hotel avoided being taken over by the renegade troops, who accuse Aquino of mismanagement and tolerating corruption among his relatives.

"We used diplomacy and appealed to them not to enter the building because we said we had guests with weak hearts," said a Nikko hotel spokesman.

'Commander Zero' returns to Nicaraguan scene

MANAGUA (AP) — The man once known as "Commander Zero" who abandoned the Sandinistas for the contra rebels, has returned home after eight years of exile and condemned both the leftist government and its U.S.-backed opponents.

Eden Pastora said the Social Christians with whom he has aligned himself for Feb. 25 elections are the true followers of Nicaragua's nationalist hero Augusto Cesar Sandino.

"We are anti-imperialist with Moscow and we are anti-imperialist with Washington," Pastora told a few hundred people in the Plaza of the Revolution Sunday.

The smooth, charismatic orator drew cheers as he lambasted both the Sandinistas and the National Opposition Union, a coalition whose 14 member parties range from Communists to conservatives.

Pastora scoffed at Sandinista accusations that he betrayed the revolution when he aban-

doned them to fight in 1983 with the U.S.-backed contra rebels.

He charged the Sandinista commanders are the "true counter-revolutionaries" because their standards of living now are much higher than the great majority of Nicaraguans.

Pastora said that although he respected Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, she did not really lead the National Opposition Union.

He said the coalition included opportunists and those who followed former President Anastasio Somoza, whom Pastora fought 15 years ago as a Sandinista rebel.

Pastora spoke from a wooden platform at the back of the former national palace, now called the Palace of the Heroes of the Revolution.

"I have come to take over the palace that's called Nicaragua," he told the crowd, which cheered wildly at this reference to one of his typically

bold exploits.

As Commander Zero, he gained international renown when he led 20 Sandinista rebels in a daring assault on the national palace on Aug. 20, 1978. That was 11 months before the Sandinistas came to power in a popular revolt that forced Somoza to flee.

In the assault, the rebels held dozens of Nicaraguan congressmen hostage until Somoza was forced to release 50 imprisoned Sandinista leaders, including current President Daniel Ortega and Interior Minister Tomas Borge.

Pastora's airport reception was the largest of any of the exiled leaders who have returned to Nicaragua this year to join the political fight against the Sandinistas.

A caravan of jeeps, trucks and cars jammed traffic for the 10-kilometre ride from Augusto Cesar Sandino International airport to the city.

Standing with Pastora were

Erick Ramirez of the Social Christian Party and Mauricio Diaz of the People's Social Christian Party.

Two months ago Diaz threw his support behind Ramirez, who became a presidential candidate after splitting from the National Opposition Union, which retains part of Diaz's party.

The Social Christians hope Pastora will boost their visibility.

The former guerrilla has been leading a quiet private life running a fishing cooperative in neighbouring Costa Rica since he quit the armed struggle against the Sandinistas in 1986 after three years with the contras.

He is called a traitor and a puppet of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) by his former Sandinista comrades-in-arms.

The contras, while welcoming the propaganda coup brought by his defection, eyed

him suspiciously because of his strongly independent streak and outspokenness.

After the Sandinista victory, on July 19, 1979, Pastora was named vice minister of defence and enjoyed wide popularity.

But the man who called himself a nationalist disagreed with his more radical leftist comrades and grew disillusioned with the Sandinista revolution. Some say he was bitter because he was not made defence minister.

In 1981 he disappeared from view and emerged in 1983, saying he would fight against the Sandinistas. But he continually criticized his contra colleagues, saying they misused money that should have gone to the fighters.

Pastora survived a 1984 news conference bombing in his jungle hideout in which two journalists were killed.

The CIA withdrew financial support of Pastora in 1986 soon after he quit the fight.

Dalai Lama to use Nobel cash for poor

OSLO (R) — The Dalai Lama has said he would use the money from the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize, which he is due to collect in Oslo next week, to help alleviate world hunger, fund peace studies and promote forgiveness in Tibet.

The exiled Tibetan leader will receive the award, worth \$455,000 at a ceremony here on Dec. 10 despite denunciations by Peking, which rules his homeland.

"There are people sick, dying from starvation, so you see from this money I will want to contribute something in that field," he told Norwegian state television in an interview filmed in Dharmas-

la, northern India, and broadcast late Sunday.

He also said he wanted to help fund studies at peace institutions around the world and to help "promote... the value of compassion and forgiveness" in the Tibetan community. He did not give details.

Peking, facing almost worldwide condemnation for its bloody suppression of pro-democracy protests in June, denounced the award, announced in October, as part of a plot to destroy China's unity.

The Dalai Lama, who lives as a simple Buddhist monk but is revered by many Tibetans as a "god



The Dalai Lama

king," rejected suggestions that Peking might put pressure on him not to travel to Oslo.

"Since last May we have no official communication with the Chinese government," he said.

First heart-liver- kidney transplant made in U.S.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A 26-year-old woman has a new heart, liver, and kidney after an almost day-long operation that doctors called the first of its kind.

Cindy Martin remained in critical condition Monday in the intensive care unit at Presbyterian-University Hospital.

Such a condition is considered normal after transplant surgery. Other multi-organ transplants have been performed, but this was the first involving the heart, liver and a kidney, according to transplant pioneer Dr. Thomas Starzl, director of the University of Pittsburgh's transplant programme.

The 2½-hour procedure began

Saturday night and ended Sunday about 5 p.m. (2200 GMT).

For Martin, this was her second heart transplant. She has familial cardiomyopathy, an inherited heart disease, according to the hospital.

Since her first transplant three years ago, the woman had suffered from chronic rejection of the heart and developed hepatitis and kidney dysfunction.

Her operation came five days after another milestone in transplant operations. In Chicago, 21-month-old Alyssa Smith became the nation's first person to receive part of a liver from a living donor.

COLUMN 8

Thief returns stolen car with boy

ROYAL OAK, Michigan (AP) — A thief apparently drove away in a stolen car without noticing a quadriplegic 10-year-old boy on the back seat, but the boy was found unharmed in the parked car nearly three hours later. Curtis Michael Walker and his father's rented 1990 Lincoln town car were recovered Monday in the neighbouring Detroit suburb of Birmingham, police said. "I imagine it was merely a crime of opportunity where someone saw that brand new town car and wanted to steal it," Royal Oak police Lieutenant Don Noyak said. "I assume they did not realise the child was in the back seat. It turned out to be a happy ending." The Reverend Curtis Walker of Riverview had placed his son in the back seat and left the car running outside a rehabilitation clinic for a few minutes while he went inside to help his wife, Peggy, to the car, Noyak said.

Don't leave mink in limousine

ATLANTA (AP) — Miss Manners' next bit of advice to her readers might very well be not to leave one's mink coat in a chauffeured limousine. Etiquette columnist Judith Martin, A.K.A. Miss Manners, did just that with her \$15,000 white mink and someone stole it while she was inside a bookstore autographing copies of her latest book, "Miss Manners' guide for the turn of the Millennium." The driver, "had stepped away for a minute and someone broke the window out," said police officer H.L. Tucker. Other items, including plane tickets, were also taken, with the total loss valued at \$19,000, police said.

Ovations for Mrs. Dukakis

BOSTON (AP) — Kitty Dukakis got two standing ovations in her first speaking engagement since she was hospitalised for weeks rubbing alcohol. The wife of Governor Michael Dukakis spoke at a fund-raising dinner sponsored by the New England Holocaust Memorial Committee, of which she is a honorary chairman. Mrs. Dukakis, 52, a recovering alcoholic, has kept a low profile since she was rushed to Brigham and Women's Hospital Nov. 6 after ingesting the toxic rubbing alcohol. Dukakis later termed the incident "a slip," or relapse into drinking. The audience of 150 stood and applauded when she approached the podium and when she finished her speech. Afterward, Mrs. Dukakis told a well-wisher, "I'm doing all right."

Class held at gunpoint by mother

GLOSTER, Mississippi (AP) — An irate woman allegedly held her daughter's eighth-grade class at gunpoint for 20 minutes, claiming her daughter had been harassed by boys at the school. No one was injured in Monday's incident at Gloster Elementary School in southwest Mississippi. Roxie W. Monk, 36, surrendered to police and was charged with aggravated assault, officials said. Officers said Monk held a loaded shotgun on teacher Lee Anderson and about 30 students, trying to find the boys bothering her 14-year-old daughter and make them leave her alone. Anne County Sheriff Gerald Wall said one boy reportedly stood during the incident, admitted to harassing Monk's daughter and apologised. Police officer Tom Poster took the gun from the woman, whom he described as "upset, but not hysterical."

Jailed for cause of pets

SENECA FALLS, New York (AP) — Lynda Ashley has gone to jail to keep her pets together — Goobette, Bubba Buff, Nippy and the rest of her family's 18 chickens. She's serving a sentence of up to 15 days for violating a Seneca Falls ordinance prohibiting the raising of poultry without a permit. At her trial last month, Ashley was ordered by village justice Gordon Tetor to remove the chickens within 72 hours. She failed to comply and was arrested and jailed. Last spring Lynda's husband, David Ashley, brought four chickens home for dinner. His five-year-old daughter Leahy rescued one, Chester, from the knife. "He was the best-looking," Leahy said. Since then the family added 17 more chickens to their backyard coop and chicken exercise yard. Eight-year-old John goes out each morning to feed the birds, collect eggs and bring them in. "They're sacred to the dogs," he said.